



## Christopher meets Arafat in 'memorable visit' to Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (USA) — "It's very memorable to be here in Gaza, and see the chairman setting up his headquarters here," said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during a press availability after his Thursday meeting with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Following is a transcript of the press availability:

Chairman Arafat: Your Excellency, first of all I would like to say to you thank you very much for your coming here and to visit us in the Gaza Strip. You have done the first visit to Jericho, and now to Gaza. And I have to thank His Excellency President Clinton for what he is doing and offering to push for the peace process by all means. We can't forget your efforts. Your Excellency, from the beginning till we had achieved what we had achieved. Again, I have to thank you from my heart, by the name of our cabinet, by the name of our masses, by the name of our people. Still, if we have to speak frankly, still we are facing some troubles there. What had happened in Erez, the isolation of Jerusalem, the troubles which we are facing in Hebron, but we are sure with your help. Your Excellency, with His Excellency President Clinton's help and your government's help we'll be able to overcome all the obstacles and to push forward so that there will be honest and accurate implementation to what had been agreed upon and signed.

We are still facing some troubles in the economic field, because still the promises which we had received from the donors have not been implemented yet. I am sure that you will continue your support and your help till our people can be able to touch the fruits of the peace. Specifically, we are facing a very dramatic economic situation, but I am sure that you are (... inaudible...) to what I had mentioned to His Excellency President Clinton in the White House in your presence. Your Excellency, that we had found a real friend in the White House, President Clinton, and we are sure that he will help us with all his efforts. We can't forget his appeal. And after the appeal we had the meeting of the donors. But we are still in need of his help to carry on and facing all this dramatic situation, specially all our infrastructure had been completely destroyed and we have to start from our hearts and I have to repeat, again, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Secretary Christopher: Mr. Chairman, of course it's very memorable to be here in Gaza, and see the chairman setting up his headquarters here. I congratulated him on his return here and taking the very important step of being here in Gaza. The chairman outlined to me the economic problems that they are facing here, and I have a new appreciation of them. Clearly, the Palestinians still face a very difficult task here. It will not be easy for them, but I urge them to work through it with determination.

We had a very sober and serious discussion of the needs for documentation for the donor community. We talked about the donors who are prepared to make available funds, but require,

according to their procedures, documentation, and we are very anxious to try to help understand the need for that documentation. With me today is under secretary of state for economic affairs, Joan Spero. She has been working closely with the World Bank and other parts of the donor community to help make the funds available and she will be staying on after, I leave to meet with the chairman and with his colleagues to try to assist in this process. One of the points that I made with the chairman was that we really need help from them in order to try to help them with the donor community.

We discussed a number of other important aspects of the new relationship here. We discussed the early empowerment talks that are taking place in Cairo that Prime Minister Rabin talked to me about last night, and I think the Israelis are anxious to go forward with that. We had a broad-ranging talk about a number of issues that face the chairman and his colleagues as they make this historic transformation. I told him, and I think he understands and agrees, that the United States feels a special responsibility to try to assist them as reflected by the early funds that we made available for their police, and as reflected by the AID project that has been stated for housing in this area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it was a pleasure to be here and now, of course, I will be glad along with you, to respond to questions that you might have.

Question: Mr. Secretary, can you share with us your feelings in coming to Gaza for the first time as secretary of state and on such a memorable occasion?

Secretary Christopher: Well, as I said, I found it very memorable to see the transformation symbolised by Chairman Arafat being here in Gaza, beginning to set up his headquarters, beginning to put together the group that will help him administer this area. I think no one can approach this kind of a moment without a realisation as to how the landscape is changing here, and how much the chairman has done to make these changes; how many years he's worked for this, and a sense of the realisation of this long effort on the part of the Palestinians who returned to this area. So I think it would be certainly almost inhuman not to have a sense of great excitement about being here and seeing this realised. But that is joined, I must say, with an appreciation — a very sober appreciation — of the difficult problems that are faced here, and the need for the international community to assist in resolving those problems.

I assured the chairman, and I want to assure all who are here, that the international community, the United States, Israel, all those who are involved, have a large stake in the success of this enterprise. Certainly I, for the United States, and my colleagues, will do all we can to ensure that this difficult project, this very difficult project, will turn out to be a success.

Q: How long do you expect it to take before the economic situation starts to improve and donors begin to send their funds?

Mr. Christopher: I think that depends upon the degree



Warren Christopher

troussional statements, and can you tell us what the upshot of that was?

Mr. Christopher: No, we don't discuss his recent controversial statements.

Q: Is there a reason you didn't take it up with him?

Mr. Christopher: The only reason I didn't take it up is our time. We had a little bit more than an hour together, which we spent focusing on the economic issues which are at the heart of the matter. We expect the chairman to live up to the agreements he made at the time of the United States meetings last September and subsequent thereto, and we frequently talk to the chairman about that and will not hesitate to do so again.

But today's meeting, especially with the presence of Under Secretary Spero and some of her colleagues, was primarily focused on the economic issues. I could supplement what the chairman said. We placed a very strong emphasis on the importance of the provision of adequate documentation to the donor community. I told him that my experience with them is that that was the best way to speed the flow of funds. They are very unlikely to go forward without the necessary receipts and other documentation and we had an extensive discussion of that, I say I won't hesitate to raise the other issues with him because we think that the chairman is fully committed to honouring the obligations he undertook at the time of the signing of the DOP last year.

Q: Do you think that the incident here the other day at Erez — the riot — might have been prevented had the donor community been more responsive to your people's needs?

Mr. Arafat: What is important is that we have to look forward. What is behind what had happened in Erez — the very bad economic situation. You know that the Gaza Strip has arrived to the red line of starvation, and the humiliation and frustration of our workers who are facing all troubles in Erez terminal. I hope this has to be changed. And besides, we have to work hard and very quickly to find solutions for the chronic economic situation; otherwise who knows what we will face next.

Q: Mr. Chairman, do you have plans to go to Jerusalem, and is it important to you that you be the first of the leaders who are negotiating peace with Israel to visit?

Mr. Arafat: I haven't the ability to go to Jericho till now. Here His Excellency is saying that my headquarters is in Gaza; but actually my headquarters is in Jericho and in Gaza. But I haven't the ability to go to Jericho, because the safe and the free passage have not been yet finished.

Q: Sir, I asked Jerusalem.

Q: The Israelis invited King Hussein to Jerusalem. What do you think about it?

Mr. Arafat: They haven't the right to offer any invitations. It is my duty and my responsibility to offer the invitations to all my brothers and to all my friends to visit the holy city, and the holy Christian and Muslim places in the Holy city. This is the jurisdiction of the Palestinians.

I appreciate very much that King Hussein will come to visit the Holy City together with me, and this is an invitation from me to His Majesty.

## Americans in Somalia at risk, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Renewed clan fighting has put Americans in Somalia at risk to the point that U.S. diplomats and the Marines protecting them may have to be removed from the country, administration officials said Thursday.

"We are already bumping up against the tripwires" set for withdrawing all American personnel from Mogadishu, the capital of the east African country, Assistant Secretary of State George Moose told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The prospects for reconciliation among Somalia's warring factions are dim, fighting in Mogadishu has increased and "at any moment we may be obliged to remove our personnel," Mr. Moose said.

U.S. participation in the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia ended in March, but there are still some 20 American diplomats helping the United Nations promote political reconciliation. They are guarded by 56-member platoon of security team.

Some 400 non-official Americans are also in the country working for relief organisations, the United Nations and in other capacities. Some 3,000 sailors and Marines are stationed offshore as part of an amphibious readiness group that would be responsible for evacuating Americans in an emergency.

Charles Freeman, the Pentagon's assistant secretary for international security affairs, told the panel that since U.S. forces left, the U.N. troops have not been aggressive in confronting the armed Somalis.

## Islam and Muslims in U.S. are safe and sound, scholar says

WASHINGTON (USA) — Whenever Arabs and Muslims allow movies and politics to strongly influence their opinion of the American people, they are wrong, according to an Algerian scholar who says he found that "Islam and Muslims in the United States are safe and sound."

"I discovered that the American society is different than the one we see in American movies," said Dr. Abdul Razak Gassoum, professor and director of the National Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Algiers. At

the conclusion of his first visit to the United States, Dr. Gassoum said, "I also found that the Americans are, to a large extent, a very religious people."

Dr. Gassoum was on a one-month visit to the United States (June 27 to July 22) along with a group of Islamic scholars from Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and journalists from Jordan and the West Bank.

The purpose of their visit, sponsored by the International Visitors Programme of the United States Information Agency, was to observe the role that religions has played in the culture and society of the United States.

The American society has many positive characteristics of which we were not aware, he said, and added, "We were impressed by its religious, ethnic and cultural diversity. They all coexist in harmony and unity."

Dr. Gassoum said he found that "Islam and Muslims in the United States are safe and sound. Muslims enjoy complete freedom — freedom to exercise their religious obligations, freedom of organisation, and freedom of cooperation among themselves and with other religious groups. This in itself is an example that should be followed everywhere."

He said, however, that a problem Muslims face is a lack of material resources.

This, the Algerian scholar said, is largely due to the fact that they are not yet as widely organised as are other religious groups.

What impressed the Algerian scholar most was the prayer before meals that American families offer.

That was a clear evidence of how religious the Americans are," he said. "Before coming here, we did not know that such a thing exists."

Dr. Gassoum and his colleagues were impressed as well by the number of churches, synagogues, mosques and other religious centres.

"We did not know that they existed in such huge numbers and sizes. Our visit made us change the opinions we held before we came to this country," he said.

The purpose of the International Visitors programme is to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange, and thus to assist in the development of friendly and peaceful relations.

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1994

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Panama may ask Israel to probe plane crash

PANAMA (AFP) — Panama may ask Israel to help investigate the mid-air explosion of a computer plane earlier this week that killed 21 people, including 12 leading Jewish businessmen, officials said Thursday. While civil aviation officials have not theorised on the causes of the explosion Tuesday, Panama's President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares said it was a bomb. "Apparently, it was not an accident, but a planted bomb inside the plane," Mr. Perez said during a television interview Wednesday in Washington. "Who is the author, we don't have any idea." Mr. Perez, who met with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said he doubted the attack was related to Monday's deadly bombing at a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires. The plane, which belonged to the Alas airline, exploded and burst in two pieces after taking off Tuesday on a flight to Panama City from the Atlantic port of Colon. It crashed into a mountain killing all 19 passengers, including Colon's mayor, and two crew members. Authorities here said they were investigating the presence of a Lebanese aboard the plane, identified as Lyam Jamal, whose remains remain unclaimed. Migration department director Antonio Dominguez said there was no record of Lyam Jamal arriving in the country. Civil aviation officials said Wednesday they had requested help in the investigation from experts in the United States and representatives of the Brazilian aircraft manufacturer, Embraer.

### Sick Gulf war soldiers to get benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gulf war soldiers with debilitating but undiagnosed illnesses would be eligible for benefits under a bill approved by the House of Veterans Affairs Committee Thursday. The legislation, passed unanimously and sent to the floor of the House of Representatives, requires the military and the department of Veterans Affairs to compensate sick veterans even when the cause of their health problems cannot be directly linked to service in the 1991 war. Thousands of veterans have complained of muscle pains, memory loss, skin rashes, respiratory problems and tumours. They have suggested a number of causes, including possible exposure to Iraqi chemical and biological agents, fumes from oil fires and insecticides. But many have not been able to obtain health care or compensation for service-related health problems because no single cause of "Gulf syndrome" has been discovered. The legislation "takes a bold step forward to recognise their sacrifices and accord them the same benefits that other service-connected disabled veterans receive," said Representative Lane Evans, a senior member of the committee. He said he was pleased that the government had learned from the agent orange experience, when it took years for the Pentagon to acknowledge that Vietnam war veterans were suffering from exposure to the defoliant.

### Victoria Kennedy leaves law firm over Libya

WASHINGTON (AP) — Victoria Reggie Kennedy, wife of Senator Edward Kennedy has resigned from her law firm over its decision to represent Libya in a wrongful death suit, Sen. Kennedy's office said. "Mrs. Kennedy resigned as an act of conscience when she learned of the firm's intention to represent the country of Libya," said a statement issued late Wednesday by the senator's office. Mrs. Kennedy's resignation from the firm Keck, Mahin and Cate, which she joined in 1987, took effect last week. She will work full time on her husband's reelection campaign, said Pamela Hughes, Mrs. Kennedy's spokeswoman. Last year, Libya hired former State Department Legal Adviser Abraham Sofaer to negotiate possible settlement of cases stemming from the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. But Mr. Sofaer's firm, Hughes Hubbard and Reed, dropped Libya after a public outcry and harsh criticism from victims' families. Mr. Kennedy, who has served 32 years in the Senate, is being challenged by Republican businessman Mitt Romney, son of former Michigan Governor George Romney, and John Lakian, Mrs. Kennedy, a partner at the firm for seven years, specialised in bank regulatory law.

### Iran raises minimum government salary

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has raised the minimum salary of civil servants by 19.1 per cent, less than the official inflation rate of 22 per cent, a newspaper reported. The daily Salam quoted the employment and administration organisation as saying the minimum monthly salary had been raised to 117,000 rials from 98,200 from the start of the current Iranian year on March 21. The new minimum monthly salary buys \$67 at the official exchange rate or \$49 on the open market, but its actual purchasing power is higher because the government subsidises basic commodities such as fuel, sugar, rice and bread. Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hossein Adel said in April that inflation in the last Iranian year stood at 22 per cent; although some economists say it was much higher.

### Two Iranian guards killed in border attack

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian rebels killed two border guards and kidnapped four others when they launched a cross-border attack from Iraq earlier this month, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Friday citing an official statement to the United Nations. In a message addressed to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Iran's mission at the United Nations protested the attack by the Mujahideen, Iran's main armed opposition group, and accused Iraq of giving them logistical support. The Iraq-based rebels infiltrated four kilometres into Iran when they attacked Halahle region in southwestern Iran on July 5, the letter said quoted by IRNA. Two border guards were killed and four others, including an officer, were kidnapped and taken to Iraq, it added.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Coup De Bleu Dans L'Etoile ..... 17:11 Fantome ..... 17:11 Le Monde Sous Marin ..... 17:15 News ..... 17:45 News ..... 18:00 News in Hebrew ..... 18:00 News in Arabic ..... 20:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air ..... 21:00 One To One ..... 21:30 The Campbells ..... 22:00 News in English ..... 22:30 Feature Film: "The Baby and the Battleship"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:08 Fajr ..... 05:39 (Sunrise) Dhuha ..... 12:42 Dhuhr ..... 16:22 Asr ..... 19:45 Maghrib ..... 21:10 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church ..... 637400 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785 ..... St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

### Yesterdays Church Tel. 661757 Terrebonne Church Tel. 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772526. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624238. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195. The Letter-Day Saints Tel. 654932. Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991. The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Min./Max. temp. 21 / 33 Aqaba ..... 23 / 39 Deserts ..... 17 / 35 Jordan Valley ..... 24 / 38

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

### AMMAN:

Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas ..... 759155 Dr. Jamil Tarif ..... 794710 Dr. Shadi Al Hakin ..... 885446 Dr. Shadi Abu Zayed ..... 677562 Dr. Firas Al Faraj ..... 677512 Faroush pharmacy ..... 778336 Al Asema pharmacy ..... 657055 Nafrouti pharmacy ..... 624672 Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730 Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945 Suncisani pharmacy ..... 637660 Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

### IRBID:

Dr. Ali Shoaib ..... 246140 Alquds pharmacy ..... (—)

### IRQA:

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# Home News

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HIJAZ RAILWAY TEAM

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## U.S. wants U.N. approval for possible Haiti invasion

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Clinton administration Thursday sought United Nations authorisation for an invasion to topple Haiti's military leaders should Washington decide to send troops.

Laying the diplomatic groundwork for armed intervention, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright announced she would circulate a Security Council resolution shortly that would allow a U.S.-led force to use "all necessary means to secure a stable environment" in Haiti.

The phrase "all necessary means" was used when the Council in 1990 authorised U.S. troops to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait as well as the recent French intervention into Rwanda.

Ms. Albright said the purpose of the resolution was to let the Clinton administration look at a "variety of options." But she emphasised that no decision had been made for an invasion and "no deadline has been set."

"We are seeing this resolution as a way of providing us with that possibility," she said.

In Washington, White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said the resolution was to provide "the diplomatic means necessary to make sure that the president can exercise any and all options" in Haiti.

Another senior White House official said the resolution would allow the United States to use "all means necessary" to get rid of the

"dictators," adding: "It sends a pretty strong statement to the coup leaders."

Ms. Albright said the resolution would call for a two-phased approach which included an intervention force followed by a U.N. force to retrain the police and military, as called for in the 1993 Governors Island Accord that was supposed to pave the way for the return of democracy.

Under this agreement, Haiti's military ruler Gen. Raoul Cedras was to resign along with some of his top aides and allow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to form a new government.

The military overthrew the democratically-elected Aristide in September 1991 and is alleged to have been terrorising his supporters since then.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, after many consultations with the Pentagon, last Friday suggested the multinational force include 15,000 troops and 500 police.

He said the U.N. force should have only 1,200 military and police, as originally mandated. But envoys said the United States wanted a 6,000-strong expanded force.

U.N. endorsement of military intervention would help make President Clinton's threat to invade more credible to the embattled but defiant Haitian military as well as attract more countries to join a possible invasion.

At the same time, diplomats said the resolution would put the White House

under more pressure to invade should the military ignore all warnings.

"The thinking is that if they want to do it, they would want the vast majority of U.S. troops out by the mid-November congressional elections," said one U.N. source.

Since the first phase of any invasion is expected to last about 60 days, be pointed to a mid-August invasion, if Mr. Clinton decided to go ahead.

Immediate reaction from an official in Haiti's de facto government, created by the military, was negative as expected.

The people of Haiti hope that the international community will let them solve their problems," said a government official on condition of anonymity. He also charged that Mr. Aristide was not a real democrat.

In Congress, more than 100 members of the House of Representatives called on Mr. Clinton to seek congressional approval before getting military intervention.

In a letter to the president released by its initiator, Representative David Skaggs, a Colorado Democrat, 105 members of both parties said the president should seek prior congressional approval unless a genuine emergency in Haiti threatened the safety of American citizens.

Mr. Skaggs told a news conference: "If President Clinton wants to send the Marines into Haiti to change the government there, the constitution requires that the

mission start here (in Congress.)"

Under the U.N. constitution, Congress has the obligation to declare war. However, U.S. troops have frequently been involved in combat overseas without such a declaration.

Ms. Albright, meanwhile, said the response in the Security Council had been positive. "I think everyone understands the necessity for moving on this."

She spent most of Thursday afternoon speaking to Council members individually. Brazil is known to have reservations, believing that stringent sanctions imposed by the Security Council needed more time to work.

Brazil also is wary about the Organisation of American States participating in any invasion and questions whether troops will be able to get out quickly, diplomats said.

Meanwhile, Washington has asked Israel to contribute troops to the international peacekeeping force for Haiti after a U.S. invasion to topple the island's military leaders, Israel's Foreign Ministry said Friday.

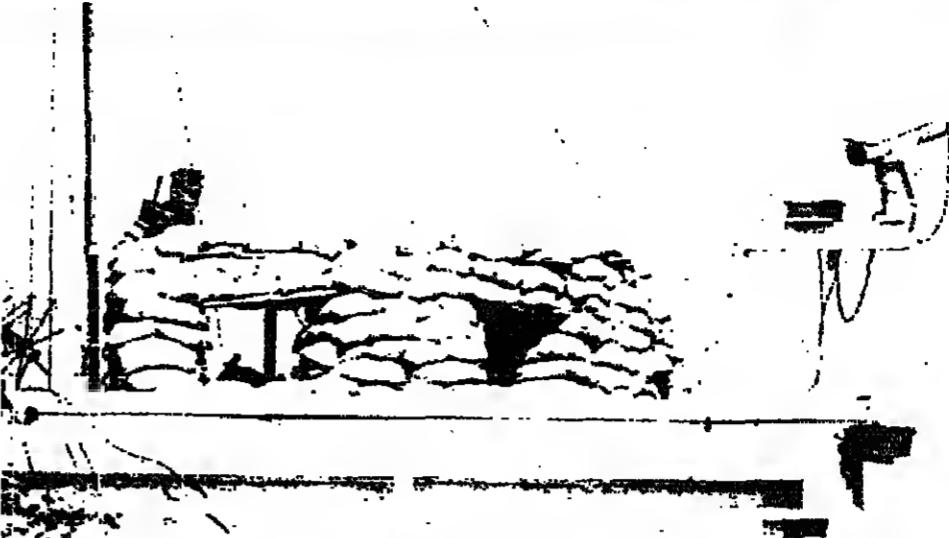
Jiji Press said it was the third lowest approval rating for a new cabinet, with 39.2 per cent of respondents disapproving of the cabinet.

The Sosuke Uno cabinet

was the lowest at 19.5 per cent, followed by the Toshiki Kaifu cabinet at 27.5 per cent, both in 1989.

Of those who disapproved of the Murayama cabinet, 19.3 per cent said they did not expect much from him, the country's first Socialist prime minister in 47 years.

The report said Washington had made the same request to the Netherlands and France. The United States had asked Israel for infantry and air force units.



A U.S. Marine keeps watch behind a sandbag bunker on the roof of the U.S. embassy in Port-au-Prince. The U.S. is attempting to gain United Nations support for military intervention to remove Haiti's military-backed government (AFP photo)

## Murayama cabinet support stays low

TOKYO (Agencies) —

Popular support for the three-week-old cabinet of Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama remains low at 29.7 per cent, a Japanese news agency poll said Friday.

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to self-defence, and that it can keep defence forces.

More than 8,000 Japanese anti-nuclear activists and delegations from international groups are to take part in the anti-nuclear rally in Hiroshima, where the United States dropped its first atomic bomb, on Aug. 6, 1945.

Traditionally, the LDP has refused to attend Gensuikin events on the grounds the organisation is sponsored by the Socialists.

Gensuikin officials said they hoped the LDP move would be a step forward to the group's goal of enacting a law to help "hibakusha," people who suffer from having been exposed to radiation.

Japanese leftists have long fought the government, dominated by the LDP for most of the post-World War II era, on the issue, saying the current medical programme for recognised hibakusha is inadequate.

The government recognises 340,000 hibakusha, but the anti-nuclear camp says the number is far larger.

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British housing estate before

centre, but there haven't

been any for a number of months."

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, has promised to give its long-awaited reply to an Anglo-Irish blueprint for peace, laid down in December in the so-called Downing Street Declaration, at a party conference Sunday.

On Thursday, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said he had heard no word of a pending IRA ceasefire. The IRA must call a truce before Britain and Ireland would allow Sinn Fein to take part in negotiations on the province's future.

Speaking in a British Broadcasting Corporation television interview, Mr. Adams said he did not believe that a truce was imminent.

## Jupiter comet gives clues on collisions with Earth

MELBOURNE (R) — The fiery collision of comet fragments with Jupiter will throw up valuable information on smaller crashes by space debris into Earth's atmosphere, a scientist on the world's only flying telescope said Friday.

Thursday's viewing through a unique type of telescope of the impact of fragment R, the 15th of originally planned to hit the dense jovian atmosphere this week, produced dramatic results, planetary scientist Ann Sprague said.

"We have excellent data which will give us several months of good work," she said in Melbourne Friday before reboarding U.S. space agency NASA's Kuiper Observatory, a converted Lockheed C-141 transport plane, to view the last fragmentation to hit Jupiter at about 0800 GMT.

Australian Observatory northwest of Sydney, said Earth's atmosphere had been regularly hit by comet particles, asteroid fragments and meteorites since the beginning of time.

"We've visited constantly by such things, but usually they are tiny," Mr. Crisp said.

A lawyer Thursday served notices on behalf of Amina Khatoon, general secretary of the Swadeshi Party, on the information and home secretaries and on the British Broadcasting Corporation's Dhaka correspondent, Atau Samad.

In her notice, Ms. Khatoon accused the home secretary of failing to act against Dr. Nasrin, who has been in hiding to avoid arrest and threats against her life by Muslim fundamentalists.

The statement accused fundamentalists of using religion for selfish gain and behaving like fascists.

NASA astronomer David Crisp, working at the Anglo-

Dhaka government may be sued over Nasrin

DHAKA (R) — The leader of a small Bangladeshi party is threatening to sue officials for failing to arrest feminist writer Taslima Nasrin and for letting British television broadcast an interview with her.

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The statement accused fundamentalists of using religion for selfish gain and behaving like fascists.

Neighbours said they heard the 44-year-old man's girlfriend plead for mercy at their flat on a staunchly pro-

British housing estate before

he was fatally shot. Police said they suspected the gunman may have belonged to an extremist Protestant gang fighting to keep Northern Ireland British.

Security forces in Northern Ireland said they were also dealing with 31 bomb alerts across Belfast, with warnings of devices planted outside police and railway stations.

So far 19 of the alerts, including one at the offices of the BBC, have proved to be hoaxes.

No one has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks.

Police said the attacks may have been the work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which began its guerrilla campaign to end British rule in the province 25 years ago.

Neighbors said they heard the 44-year-old man's girlfriend plead for mercy at their flat on a staunchly pro-

IRA.

centre, but there haven't

been any for a number of months."

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, has promised to give its long-awaited reply to an Anglo-Irish blueprint for peace, laid down in December in the so-called Downing Street Declaration, at a party conference Sunday.

On Thursday, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said he had heard no word of a pending IRA ceasefire. The IRA must call a truce before Britain and Ireland would allow Sinn Fein to take part in negotiations on the province's future.

Speaking in a British Broadcasting Corporation television interview, Mr. Adams said he did not believe that a truce was imminent.



New British Labour Party leader Tony Blair (right) and his wife Cherie (left) take the stage with new deputy leader John Prescott (2nd left) and his wife Pauline following the announcement of the post being filled after the death of former Labour leader John Smith last May (AFP photo).

## Poll: Tories fail to revive voter support, but Labour faces tough task

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's ruling Conservatives remain deeply unpopular with voters, trailing some 28 points behind the Labour opposition, according to the latest MORI findings in the Times Friday.

However, the poll also suggests Labour has a long way to go before convincing voters it is fit to lead the country.

The findings are based on research carried out last weekend before a Tory cabinet reshuffle Wednesday, designed to boost the party's fortunes, and before the announcement Thursday that the "modernising" Tony Blair had, as long predicted, won the Labour leadership contest.

According to MORI, the Tories stand at 23 per cent, down one point from the end

of June, compared with 51 per cent for Labour, down a point over the month.

The Liberal Democrats have advanced one point to 21 per cent and other parties are also slightly higher.

Deep disillusion is reflected in the low level of satisfaction with the government. Only one in ten voters and 35 per cent of declared Tory supporters are satisfied with the way the government is running the country.

Following his election to the opposition leadership, it is predicted Mr. Blair will now enjoy "a honeymoon period," and his newly-elected deputy John Prescott claimed Mr. Blair "scares the life out of the Tories".

MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,899 adults between July 14 and 16.

The pollsters found that the percentage of people who think Labour would like to come to power is now four points higher than when former Labour leader Neil Kinnock started to modernise the party five years ago.

Labour also scored unfavourable ratings on keeping its promises and helping to improve living standards.

Thirty-five per cent of voters said they believed Labour would keep promises, compared with 41 per cent in 1989. Asked whether Labour would help improve people's living standards, 37 per cent believed it would, compared with 41 per cent in 1989.

ITAR-TASS news agency said President Boris Yeltsin wanted to meet him to hear his impressions of the epic journey, which began in the Far Eastern port of Vladivostok in May.

"Clearly, it would be useful if the writer and the politician exchanged information," presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said. No date has been set.

But not everyone in Russia has welcomed the return of the conservative writer, whose probity and courage have been revered since Soviet authorities expelled him from home in 1974.

Tough rightist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, whose supporters surged to unexpected prominence in Russian elections last December, snatched his opportunity for a sneer.

Comparing Mr. Solzhenitsyn's return to that of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin, who spent 17 years in exile abroad before leading the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, Mr. Zhirinovsky said: "It would be better if he went back. We don't need these emigres who've been sitting out there for 20 years slandering our people. We'll cope with 'reconstructing'

Russia without him."

Mr. Solzhenitsyn makes a point of avoiding many modern Russian words, preferring more traditional Slavic forms.

Instead of former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika," or "rebuilding," Mr. Solzhenitsyn talks of "obustroit" or "reconstruct" Russia. Mr. Zhirinovsky's snide comment was a jibe at the writer's arcane vocabulary.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn, author of books that portrayed the brutality of life in Soviet prison camps, was hustled on to an Aeroflot flight bound for Frankfurt in 1974.

He has been invited to address the State Duma, the lower chamber of parliament, on his return to Moscow. TASS gave no other details on his programme. The author says he will

accept no political post but has pledged to work for the spiritual revival of his homeland.

Since starting his homecoming tour, the writer has attacked the market reforms of President Yeltsin and scolded the first democratic multiparty elections held last December, saying there was not yet even a hint of democracy in Russia.

TASS quoted centrist Nikolai Travykin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, as saying he hoped Mr. Solzhenitsyn would soon "step down from the role of president's critic." A recent Moscow opinion poll showed the writer's criticism may not have a big impact on events in Russia. About half those polled said they did not believe Mr. Solzhenitsyn's return would make any difference to the country. The island has 33 radio stations, 21 of which are private. BCC, the largest, is controlled by the Nationalists.

## Junk food blamed for Philippine nutrition decline

MANILA (R) — Love of Western-style junk food is causing nutrition standards to decline in the Philippines where more than half the people live in poverty, President Fidel Ramos said Friday. Consumption of fruit and vegetables by Filipinos fell an alarming 25 per cent in the 10 years to 19

# World News

Junk food blamed for Philippine nutrition decline

MANILA (R) — Long Western-style junk food causing nutrition standards to decline in the Philippines where more than half the people live in poverty, President Fidel Ramos said yesterday. Consumption of fast food and vegetables by Filipinos fell an alarming 25 per cent in the 10 years to 1992, he said. "What may have happened is that our old dietary value have lost out to the shape and more attractive convenience of junk food." Despite growing hamburger and pizza chains, Mr. Ramos said there was no reason why people could not be persuaded to return to what was good for their health and pocket.

## Canada goose an unwelcome guest in U.K.

LONDON (AFP) — The British government would like to import the Canada goose, which defecates every three to four minutes and produces 45 kilos (100 pounds) of excrement a week, that it is not welcome here. The up-and-coming world champion defecator — the Guinness book of world records is silent on the subject — fouls the vibrant rolling meadows, manicured lawns and hill flows beds of London's parks, says the Department of Environment (DOE). The doves are also aggressive to humans and occasionally splatter against low-flying planes, says a DOE publication enumerating nine ways of combating these pests. It even warning that geese to poking holes in their eggs. "A large flock, defecating every few minutes, can deposit a great deal of excrement," notes Canada Geese: A Guide to Legal Control Methods which DOE's Canada Goose Working Party published. The geese a quality adopt at making nests. The large birds' remarkable powers of extreme reproduction demand the working part. Otherwise, Britain's geese population, up from 14,000 in 1975 to 80,000 in 1990, could double by 2000. The environmental problem is exacerbated, says the DOE, by the fact that the geese have natural enemies, and is protected by Britain's Wildlife and Countryside Act as European Union rules.

## Taiwan police arrest illegal radio host

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwanese arrested the host of a underground radio station for charging him with operating an illegal public service. The radio host was arrested outside the court when he was leaving the station. The court was adjourned for two hours to stop the planned demolition of the Nationalist's two-story red-brick headquarters in Taipei. Hundreds of residents attended, preventing demolition of the nationalists' building. Mr. Hsu said he was at the site. Mr. Hsu had been reportedly to appear in court to answer charges of violating the law.

The news agency, Tanjug, said Mr. Hsu was shot at again, and Maj. Annink



A Rwandan man wearing a hygienic mask and plastic gloves lays the body of a child alongside hundreds more in a refugee camp, 10 kilometres north of Goma. Several thousand Rwandans have died after fleeing to camps around the Zairean town bit by cholera (AFP photo).

## U.S., U.N. discuss moves against Bosnian Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry met United Nations military commanders Friday to consider stepping up pressure on the Bosnian Serbs after their effective rejection of a new international peace plan.

Mr. Perry had been scheduled to hold the talks in Sarajevo but was forced to divert to Zagreb after hostile fire at United Nations aircraft caused the U.N.-controlled airport in the Bosnian capital to be closed.

The United Nations said the airport remained closed to relief flights Friday, the third consecutive day the aid airlift has been suspended. A United Nations spokesman reported a gradual increase in fighting between Serbs and Muslims Thursday along a key supply route in central Bosnia.

Two people were killed and five wounded by mortar fire on the Muslim-held town of Maglaj. Fresh fighting was also reported from the northwestern enclave of Bihać, with more than 400 shell impacts recorded.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi has said the U.N. and NATO are planning action against the Serbs following their refusal to give unconditional acceptance to the peace plan drawn up by the U.S., Russia, Britain, Germany and France.

In Zagreb, Mr. Perry was meeting Admiral Leighton Smith, NATO's commander in chief of naval forces.

A U.S. C-141 was shot at while landing and took off again immediately, and was shot at again, Maj. Annink

said 30-40 impacts were counted when it landed in Germany.

A third plane, an Antonov 26, was shot at while landing and subsequently while taking off — both times by machine-guns. A U.S. civilian working for the U.N. was wounded on that take-off.

While the Muslim-led Bosnian government accepted the peace plan, which divides Bosnia roughly in half between Serbs and the Muslim-Croat alliance, the Serbs attached a list of conditions to their response which Western diplomats said amounted to a rejection.

This prompted the Bosnian government first to withdraw its acceptance of the deal and then reverse its decision following a telephone conversation between U.S. envoy Charles Redman and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Maj. Annink said the shots appeared to come from a place where Serb and Bosnian Muslim forces are in positions close to one another, making it impossible for the U.N. to single out either side for blame.

In Thursday's attacks, an Ilyushin 76 transport plane was hit by six rounds of small arms fire during take off and landed safely in Ancona, Italy.

"Our unconditional 'yes' has ceased to be valid," Izetbegovic said.

The Yugoslav news Agency, Tanjug, said Mr. Izetbegovic

govic's statement and Mr. Redman's "clarification" showed that the Muslim-Croat federation agreed to the peace plan only to bring about tougher sanctions on Yugoslavia and an end to the international arms embargo on the Muslims.

The United States Friday contradicted Russia's view that the Bosnian Serbs had not essentially rejected a last-ditch international peace plan.

In a clear sign of rifts within the big-power sponsors of peace efforts in Bosnia, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said the Bosnian Serbs' stance was negative.

After talks with NATO and U.N. peacekeeping commanders on military steps to impose the plan, Mr. Perry was asked about Russia's statement that the Serbs' demand for more negotiations was "rather positive" and "not devoid of logic."

"It was not an acceptance of the plan and that is what the contact group had asked for. We consider it not a positive answer but a disappointing answer and it is going to greatly complicate the path ahead," he told reporters.

"We would hope, sincerely, that between now and the July 30 meeting (of contact group foreign ministers) that the Bosnian Serbs will reconsider their answer and give them something more positive to work on at that meeting."

Mr. Redman told reporters from Brussels: "He (Izetbegovic) told me very clearly their unconditional acceptance is still on the table, that it was never off the table."

Mr. Izetbegovic earlier made a statement in Sarajevo in which he cited the Serb refusal to endorse the peace plan as grounds for his government to pull back from its own acceptance.

"Our unconditional 'yes' has ceased to be valid," Izetbegovic said.

The Yugoslav news Agency, Tanjug, said Mr. Izetbegovic

## Burma steals spotlight in ASEAN debut

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma, which for decades lived in obscurity, took centre stage Friday in its controversial debut at the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) when it agreed to open talks with United Nations representatives.

Attending the annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting as a guest of host Thailand, Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw was expected to hold an informal, preliminary meeting later Friday with a U.N. official.

The news that the junta in Rangoon was prepared to open a dialogue with U.N. representatives was apparently timed for maximum impact at the ASEAN opening, where member states, official observers and guests welcomed the gesture.

Many of ASEAN's Western partners, who are to hold two days of meetings with the six-nation grouping next week, had been harshly critical of the invitation to Burma, which they say should be diplomatically isolated because of its human rights record.

The ASEAN meetings followed on the heels of the fifth anniversary Wednesday of the house arrest of Burma's leading opposition figure, Aung San Suu Kyi at her home in Rangoon — a landmark that reminded the world of Burma's shortcomings.

Thai government spokesman Abhisit Vejjajiva said Friday that Burma's willingness to talk was vindication for ASEAN's policy of "constructive engagement" which believes that change can best be promoted by regular contacts rather than isolation.

The U.S. ambassador to Thailand, David Lambertson, reacted cautiously to the news. "I can only say that we hope this represents progress. Beyond that, I really think we don't know," Mr. Lambertson said after open-

ing session.

A Thai official told AFP Friday that Mr. Ohn Gyaw had accepted the U.N. request for a dialogue during a working lunch with Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri.

The request from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was conveyed in a letter two months ago, the official said.

Nay Htun, the regional director for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said he expected to speak informally with the Burmese foreign minister Friday afternoon and he thought a formal meeting could be confirmed "very soon."

Formal talks would be headed, on the U.N. side, by Rafeeuddin Ahmad, a U.N. under-secretary-general and executive secretary of the Bangkok-based Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The Thai foreign minister told reporters that Burma's willingness to talk with the U.N. indicated it was ready to cooperate with the "out-

side world."

Added Mr. Prasong's deputy, Surin Pitsuwan: "It's an opening to the process of consultation." Aoy talks would give Burma "a chance to express their own concerns. I think the world should welcome that."

Mr. Abhisit acknowledged that progress on Burma's constitution and the treatment of ethnic minorities was "not as fast as we would have liked to see."

But, he said, "compared to the fact that Myanmar (Burma) has been isolated or been alienated for a long period of time, I think there has been strong evidence to show that this (constructive engagement) policy is working," he said.

Amoog participants at the ASEAN meeting hailed the news was Cambodia's ambassador to Thailand Rolan Eng, who said the move had created "a dynamic atmosphere" for the conference.

Cambodia, which is attending ASEAN as a "special guest of the host country," has indicated it would take a neutral stand outside

the Thai prime minister said that "competition for ocean space and resources in the South China Sea" where China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei have overlapping claims, was "particularly worrisome."

While ASEAN officials said they expected the conflicting claims to the Spratly and Paracel islands to feature at talks here which will be expanded next week to include China, the United States and Russia, Mr. Chuan Thursday ruled out multilateral discussion of the problem.

It said the soldiers, from the 62nd Infantry Battalion, then marched on the main camp two kilometres away.

A Thai Foreign Ministry official told AFP that 5,000 Mons had fled the Halockhian Camp. But he said they were not forced out and another 3,000 residents remained there.

He could not confirm a report that the soldiers set Kwan

Saya on fire.

The MNRC said it believes the soldiers wanted to "conscript Mons to act as porters and also wanted to put pressure on the New Mon State Party, which is holding ceasefire talks with Burma's military regime.

Most of the Mon refugees were repatriated from Thailand early this year.

## Burma troops reportedly clash with refugees

BANGKOK (AFP) — Some 100 Burmese troops occupied a refugee camp of the Mon ethnic minority inside Burma, sending thousands of the refugees fleeing across the nearby border into Thailand, a refugee group said Friday.

The soldiers entered a part of the Halockhian Mon Refugee Camp called Kwan Saya Village early Thursday, the Mon National Relief Committee (MNRC) said in a statement. The camp is near Three Pagoda Pass on the Thai-Burmese border.

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## U.N. cannot cope, urges Rwandans to leave Zaire

GOMA, Zaire (R) — The U.N. refugee agency said Friday aid organisations could not cope with Rwandan refugees who have fled to Zaire and strongly urged them to return home.

"We are strongly encouraging the swift return of refugees. We can't continue what we're doing now," Panos Mountzis, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman, told Reuters in Goma.

"UNHCR will be present in many areas of the return and UNAMIR (peacekeeping) forces will be present to guarantee the safety of the process. That's the only solution to the problem."

"We do feel it's safe for them to go back now and we will be telling the refugees this message," said Mr. Mountzis, adding that 200 refugees went from Goma to Rwanda Thursday and several hundred were waiting to go back over the border Friday.

He said UNHCR officials discussed the crisis Thursday in the Rwandan capital Kigali with Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) commander Major General Paul Kagame.

Gen. Kagame was appointed defence minister and vice-president in a new government formed Tuesday.

Mr. Mountzis said Mr. Mountzis said Mr. Moussali Friday travelled on the MSF — captured north of Goma where Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF) doctors collected up to 300 bodies Thursday, dozens more corpses lay on a plain of black volcanic rock as dawn filtered through the acrid pall of smoke.

MSF medical workers said up to 50,000 people were waiting to be treated.

Mr. Moussali said 18 water tanker trucks were due to arrive by road Sunday but 62 more were needed.

The U.N. wants to build 60,000 pit latrines, but these will have to be dug into hard lava flows. Water is almost impossible to find beneath the volcanic rock, aid workers said.

Most aid flights to Goma Airport, which is literally cracking under the weight of planes, are carrying supplies such as plastic sheeting for refugee huts and food. Three planes with 84 tonnes of food arrived Thursday.

The refugees, who poured into Zaire to escape advancing forces of the Rwanda

around Bukavu, Zaire.

Meanwhile, Rwandan refugees stacked their dead in growing piles Friday and aid workers said a plague of cholera and other diseases was spreading around the apocalyptic camps of eastern Zaire.

"It's clear that it's spreading fast," Nina Winquist of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told reporters in the border town Goma, where cholera is also ravaging the local Zairean population.

At Munigi, a few kilometres north of Goma where Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF) doctors collected up to 300 bodies Thursday, dozens more corpses lay on a plain of black volcanic rock as dawn filtered through the acrid pall of smoke.

MSF medical workers said up to 50,000 people were waiting to be treated.

Mr. Moussali said 18 water tanker trucks were due to arrive by road Sunday but 62 more were needed.

Only clean water can slow the spread of cholera but MSF doctors said once the epidemic gained pace the living could be infected directly from the dead and others still alive.

MSF was flying in water and sanitation equipment to provide some clean water for the refugees, who are all drinking from the stinking shores of Lake Kivu.

UNHCR officials said the vast throng needed a daily supply of 30 million litres of clean water. The supply currently stands at 200,000 litres.

Isabel Pardieu, a spokeswoman for MSF, said her group was flying in 40,000 litres of IV fluids in the next five days, but people were also dying from malaria, dysentery and measles — a killer for underfives.

She said some cholera had also been seen in Kihumba camp, one of the largest concentrations of people north of Goma.

An estimated one million refugees are now in this border region after an unprecedented, war-fuelled exodus from Rwanda where another half million died in two months of ethnic slaughter.

He said Mr. Moussali would go to a French-protected safe zone in the southwest Saturday to negotiate with leaders there for the return of at least 500,000 refugees from the area.

## University rejects Jakarta account of unrest

JAKARTA (R) — East Timor's university has rejected official accounts of last week's protests, accusing Indonesian security forces of initiating violence that left dozens injured, a university official said Friday.

Armando Maia, vice rector for academic affairs, told Reuters by telephone from Dili the university had issued its own version of events, in which it rejected military and Foreign Ministry accounts blaming students for the decree that limited magistrates' rights of arrest.

The bitterness of the row

was illustrated Thursday when members of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party scuffled in parliament with coalition colleagues of the federal Northern League.

The League, which built its popularity on the fight against graft and is Mr. Berlusconi's largest political partner, brought the government to the brink of collapse by changing its mind and ending cuts to reduce Italy's mammoth budget deficit.

"We would welcome people back to our position is not a sign of weakness," Mr. Fini said told *La Stampa* newspaper in an interview.

"Only arrogant govern-

ments confront problems

with their heads down and then break them."

Government sources said

the new measure would

## Jordan Times

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جordan Times

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## Double cause of democracy

WASHINGTON SEEMS to be poised to militarily intervene in Haiti in a bid to restore democracy to the country and reinstate elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. This is fine. The protection of democracy and human rights is a noble cause that deserves all the efforts necessary for this purpose including the use of force. What adds urgency to the Haitian problem is the deterioration of the situation in that country to the extent that wave after wave of Haitians are seeking asylum in the U.S. and in this process hundreds have lost their lives.

Washington's policy on granting such freedom-seekers refugee status has been anything but steady or consistent, thus exacerbating even more the plight of these people torn between running away from tyranny to a promise of a better life under conditions of freedom.

Still the moral issue that the U.S. and the international community is pondering is whether democracy can be imposed by outsiders and on what basis. The world would surely become a better place if democratic governments are rewarded and undemocratic ones punished. The first rule that needs to be adhered to in this context is not to be selective. Double standards in the application of this standard would no doubt undermine the effect no matter how sincere and well-intentioned it might be. Unfortunately there are more countries than one cares to count which are anything but democratic. The immediate issue is whether the international community would target one country and not the others. As long as there is a constant effort in fighting off dictatorships anywhere in the world then there is room for adapting the doctrine. But then, can a country devoid of democratic tradition be transformed into a democratic one over night and by military intervention? Democracy needs to be cultivated and nurtured. People fighting for democracy should expect support both political, economic and even military conditions warrant it. The U.S. determination to bring back President Aristide to the country can only guarantee the beginning of the process of democratisation in Haiti. It cannot assure a quick jump into full democracy. Yet this modest start is a necessary excuse with it there can be no hope for further steps. The world must start somewhere and Haiti is as good as any place for starting this process provided it is consistent and nonselective.

## THE PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE U.S. in Al Ra'i daily said that the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are adopting an embargo which would eventually lead the world organisation to the same fate that met the League of Nations when they are selfish and seeking to dominate the destiny of the other nations. Tareq Masa'weh, citing the U.N. decision to retain the sanctions on Iraq, said that the U.N. embargo is kept in place not because the world community wants to force the Iraqis to comply with the council's resolution, but rather to prevent the Iraqis from using their oil and so protect the interests of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which should sell oil to buy American weapons and American telephone systems. Accusing the council members of inhuman action and meanness, the writer said that the world organisation has transformed itself into a tool in the hands of the world powers to starve 17 million people in Iraq to offer service to American companies. The writer said that the permanent member nations are to be held responsible for the world organisation and its principles because they continue to follow a policy of their own interests and not the international community.

AS LONG as the people of Gaza remain hungry, the flame of rebellion is bound to burn more brilliantly and strongly while the oppressed people continue the struggle for freedom, said Ahmad Arafat, a writer in Al Ra'i daily. Judging from the way the world has been reacting with regard to the events in Gaza, there seems little concern on the part of the world community in general and the Arab world in particular over the fate of the oppressed people fighting for their freedom and shedding their blood daily to achieve that goal, said the writer. Had there been any billions of dollars, numerous projects would have emerged to help the inhabitants, said the writer.

The world continues to watch the Israeli elements on Arab-owned land in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Arab territories. The world will continue to provide the Israelis with the fate of the fate of the people of Arab land, added the writer.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

## Jordan committed to a peace that caters to national priorities

MONDAY's meeting in Washington between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin crowns a week of unprecedented landmark meetings between Jordanians and Israelis in the region under the glare of television cameras, setting in motion an irreversible process of peace between the two neighbours after more than 45 years of conflict.

The acceleration in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations was in fact overdue. The Kingdom, living up to its pan-Arab commitments, had been holding itself back so long, to the point that any further delay in advancing on a course to protect its own national rights could in fact have had adverse impact on its national interests.

To be sure, not everyone in Jordan is behind the course of peace that our leadership has opted for. But it is abundantly clear that a vast majority of Jordanians, long resigned to considering politics before anything else while pursuing their daily life, supports the opportunity to put behind the era of conflict, bloodshed and tension and turn a new page where their full potential could be put into use for themselves as well as their country.

To say the least, the trilateral meeting at the Dead Sea, where Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and US. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his capacity as the foreign minister of Jordan was impressive both in form and content. It was not simply a ceremony to launch a process of normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel. Rather, it was an occasion to state publicly for both sides, with American support, their firm commitment to peace with honour. It also offered an opportunity to have a glimpse into the past and tell our younger generation that Jordan's option for peace did not come today but that the Kingdom's founder was the pioneer of the concept of peaceful coexistence in the region.

Mr. Peres' speech, interspersed with philosophy and facts, and his repeated tribute to our late founder, King Abdullah, and His Majesty King Hussein as having carried

the torch of wisdom based on logic, reason and pragmatism, touched the inner chords of many Jordanians. But that does not mean that everything was suddenly turned to fine and dandy in Jordanian-Israeli relations.

No doubt, those words were expected, given that the Dead Sea encounter represented a historic occasion for the Israelis. For them it was the first public and official acceptance by Jordanians of Israel as a people in the region. This should explain the euphoria that was evident in the words of every Israeli who attended the Dead Sea meeting, whether from the media or otherwise, and his/her anxiety to use every moment of the occasion to gain further measures of recognition and legitimacy (the simplest indicator to the Israeli thinking was the eagerness that dozens of Israelis showed in trying to pose for photographs with every Jordanian at the Dead Sea. Many Jordanians were indeed obliging).

Quite simply, whether Israel would like to say it in public or not, it was a magnanimous gesture on Jordan's part not to have maintained the Dead Sea trilateral meeting as a formal occasion with stiff collars and to treat it as an occasion to highlight the desire of the two people to live with security and stability, away from tension and violence, based on honourable peace.

Those Israelis who might want to insist on their "superiority" over all others in the world would be well-advised to realise that what Jordan and Jordanians offered them on the shores of the Dead Sea was a clear reaffirmation of the acceptance of Israel in the region and the Israelis as a people. Needless to say, it was hard for Jordan and the Jordanians to do so, given the suffering they underwent as a result of Israel's expansionist policies and the usurpation of Arab rights.

But they did so with high hopes that the goodwill and sincerity that they have would be reciprocated in the same spirit that the sentiments were offered, and Israel would be willing and forthcoming not only to accept and acknowledge

that Arab rights have been trampled upon but also to work out in all seriousness a comprehensive solution to the fundamental conflict.

Israel would be better off realising that the welcome and hospitality that Jordan and Jordanians offered to Mr. Peres and those who accompanied him to the Dead Sea did not mean that Jordan was stepping off the "Arab wagon" to kiss and make up with the Jewish state. It was only a signal that Jordan is ready to discuss peace based on the legitimate rights of all people in the region and the return to the Arabs of their rights usurped by Israel.

No doubt, it has now been established that there is a new school of political thought in Jordan which is determined not to repeat the mistake of wasted opportunities. It believes that aberrations should not be the rule but an exception.

The voices of opposition that we hear against the very concept of coexistence are the reflection of the level of democracy that we have managed to attain in a relatively short period of time. Those who look at statements issued by political parties and draw from them their summation of how many Jordanians support the peace process might also be well off to realise that the voices behind those statements are a minority.

Mr. Peres' flowery words at the Dead Sea were at best reassuring to Jordanians in that they indicated that Israel is willing to accept an honourable settlement with the Kingdom and live up to it. But, lest the Israeli leaders forget, there is a long way ahead of us. Jordan will not budge on its territorial and water rights, and any talk of interaction in any area should be preceded by a satisfactory solution to the Kingdom's territorial claims and demand for the return for its water rights.

Furthermore, normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel is not simply round the corner. Jordan is indeed committed to a negotiated peace, but not at the expense of the rights of its Arab brethren.

## Root causes to conflict

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

## should be dealt with for the sake of lasting peace

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE JORDANIAN-Israeli talks, the peace process, the massacre at the Erez checkpoint, Arab and domestic affairs were the main features in the columnists' articles and editorials of the Arabic press in the past week.

In comments on the Wadi Araba talks between the Israeli and Jordanian delegations, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that a new era of peace and stability in the Middle East can only start when the Israelis prove by deed rather than by word the good intentions expressed by their delegates.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that Israel's historical record abounds with criminal actions committed against the Palestinians and with stealing of Arab lands and water resources stressing that this record would not be erased except through the restoration of the usurped rights.

He said that Israel ought to conduct a complete reversal of its aggressive policies and prove through new conduct and practice that it is oriented towards peace.

In the view of Saleh Al Gailani, a columnist in Al Dustour, the Jordanian-Israeli talks at Wadi Araba and the Dead Sea should not surprise any one. Neither should people be astonished to see Israeli and Jordanian delegations holding talks about future peace because the Arabs could not regain their usurped lands over the past four decades nor were they able to end the divisions that rendered them weak and unable to stand up to the Israeli aggression, said

These views were echoed by Mohammad Kawash in

One can learn a lesson

Al Dustour. He said that the Americans might be able to force the Israelis and the Arabs to reach a peace formula, but would not be able to defuse explosive issues like the water-sharing problems unless they found a practical system to help the Arabs and Israel to avoid future friction. The writer said that the water issue could be solved by drawing water from Turkey which, the writer said, might or might not give its consent to do so in this respect. Therefore, the two sides to find alternatives to each and every solutions that they might present to the negotiators to help remove any causes for future conflicts.

Akher Khabar daily newspaper criticised the Israeli negotiators at Wadi Araba for their intransigent stand with regard to the question of borders with Jordan. The Israelis tried to force the Jordanians to accept the Israeli idea that no previous demarcation of borders had existed before, while the Jordanian negotiators resisted and also turned down proposals for normalisation of relations before a settlement over the usurped rights has been reached, said the paper.

Mohammed Subeili, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, said optimists expecting millions of dollars to pour onto the region following the signing of a peace treaty should pause a little and take a view at the Egyptian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

The writer said that the

from those agreements which entailed mere pledges on the part of the United States to provide assistance that never came, said the writer. The Egyptians are living in worse conditions than ever before despite the meagre economic aid they are receiving while the Palestinians are still awaiting the promised assistance for the self-rule area that is still to come, noted the writer.

Fahd Faneck, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said it is true that many people oppose the current Jordanian-Israeli negotiations but they ought to come up with an alternative formula enabling the Kingdom to regain its lost property.

The writer said the Arab Nation has failed to wage a military campaign to regain its usurped lands and it would be disastrous for the nation to lie idle and not to pursue any kind of efforts to regain the lost territory. It would not be a crime for the Arabs to try to regain their lost land at a time when they watch the Israelis continuing to expand geographically and demographically at the expense of the Arab countries, concluded the writer.

Hamed Farache, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, described those responsible for the explosion at the Jewish centre in Buenos Aires as having offered a precious service to the Zionist organisations.

The writer said that the

blast has offered the world

Zionists the chance to drum up the campaign against the Arabs and Muslims, describing them as terrorists and accusing them

of taking away the lives of innocent people. We ought to denounce the blast as a criminal action for political, religious, national and humanitarian reasons so as to forestall any attempt on the part of world Zionism to stick the terrorist act to the Arab and Muslim people, demanded the writer.

George Haddad, a columnist in Al Dustour, cast a gloomy view at the Jordanian-Israeli talks, stressing that what is imposed on the Arabs is a mere Israeli formula for peace that would not be beneficial to the Arabs in any way. What is being cooked is a new Middle East order to replace the Arab order which would be in the interests of the Zionists alone, said the writer.

The writer said the Arab Nation has failed to wage a military campaign to regain its usurped lands and it would be disastrous for the nation to lie idle and not to pursue any kind of efforts to regain the lost territory. It would not be a crime for the Arabs to try to regain their lost land at a time when they watch the Israelis continuing to expand geographically and demographically at the expense of the Arab countries, concluded the writer.

Reflecting on the massacre of Arab workers at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza, Walid Abu Baker, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that it was a very dangerous development that demonstrated the hidden had intentions of the Israeli authorities. The writer expressed criticism of these who commit terrorist actions against the Algerians and the foreign nationals, stressing that such actions would not serve the cause of the Islamic extremists who are trying to take control of the government in Algeria. The brain drain in Algeria, said the writer, is harmful to the whole country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the type of children's programmes presented by Jordan Television during the children's holidays. Describing the programmes as tending to retard rather than develop the minds of the children, Zaki Abu Ghazaleh said that he had conducted a survey among children and found that they described the programmes as rubbish. He said that the tales related to the children through these programmes have no moral or literary value.

## N. Korea says talks on Aug. 5

(Continued from page 1)

July 8 but was suspended the following day when news broke of the death of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung.

The United States was trying to get Pyongyang to abandon plans to build nuclear weapons in return for diplomatic and economic concessions, including help in shifting to less threatening light-water nuclear technology.

In Seoul on Thursday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci and South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo agreed their countries should "actively assist" Pyongyang to upgrade its nuclear reactor if it gave up any nuclear arms.

"Kim Il-Sung gave the previous instruction only hours before his heart stopped beating," the monitors quoted the broadcast as saying, adding that the radio did not elaborate on the date, time and content of the "instruction."

North Korea has said that Kim, who had long set 1995 as a date for the reunification

## PLO demands Jerusalem talks

(Continued from page 1)

and my responsibility to offer the invitations... in the Holy City. This is the jurisdiction of the Palestinians."

In another development, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in the highest-level visit to Gaza since Palestinian self-rule began, urged Mr. Arafat on Thursday to better account for the way foreign aid is spent.

Their talks, during Mr. Christopher's current week-long Middle East peace mission, focused on Arafat's troubles getting donor countries to meet pledges of millions of dollars for Gaza and Jericho.

"We discussed the details of economic help, and Mr. Christopher promised to support us to the donors and the World Bank," Mr. Arafat told a news conference (see page 2).

But Mr. Christopher said: "The donors require documentation. We are very anxious to help (the Palestinians)

to decide how to run their education system.

"It was a fruitful meeting... within the sphere of education they (Palestinians) are going to get control, to decide everything that needs to be decided on the educational sphere."

"As far as education is concerned we made a good progress and there are very few problems left to be worked on next week, so we are taking them back home with us and the Palestinians are taking them back home and hopefully they will be able to conclude them next week," Gen. Rothschild added.

## Israelis kill one in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

tions that we are trying to build around this area will achieve this," he told reporters.

Palestinian officials said they had implemented new procedures on their side of the checkpoint. "We agreed to increase the number of workers from 20,000 to 30,000" said Ziad Al Atrash, Palestinian head of the security liaison committee between the self-rule authority and Israel. He was referring to the number of worker permits Israel agreed to issue to Palestinians.

## Features

By Dr. Musa Kella



A scene from the musical satire "The Will," performed Thursday at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

### The angles, intentions of Mansour Rahabani's 'The Will'

By Angham Tamimi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Don't give the permission to sell" is a very important and basic sentence in "The Will." Repeated every now and then throughout the play, the command refers to selling one's own land, one's own self, or one's own values.

"The Will," which was performed for the first time last summer at George V Theatre in Beirut, and lasted for three consecutive weeks, is a musical satire. Its main plot is social, but its details and intentions sound political.

The two sets to the play consisted of the entrance of the lead character's (played by Ghassan Slabta) house, and the bar which he frequents and where he falls in love with its beautiful proprietor.

The first scene develops around a 70-year-old rich man who is gravely ill. He has no wife and children, and his nephews pray for him to die so as to inherit his estate.

The old man writes a will stipulating that if he dies before the age of 80 his fortune will go to charity, but if he lives to be an octogenarian his nephews will reap his fortunes.

Outside his house, his nephews discuss the will, but their words carry ironic meanings. There are hidden references to political issues, Cuba, Castro, the right wing, revolt, and CIA.

After the will is made known to the family, the conflict begins between the charity societies and the old man's relatives. The first party, hoping for the man's early death, works towards it; while the second party strives to keep the uncle alive for 10 more years.

The female lead Zina, played by Huda, the sister of Lebanese vocalist Fairuz, sings many songs throughout the play to serve certain theatrical purposes as well as entertain the audience.

Zina loves someone who works in a charity society, but the love is not reciprocal. Zina's love interest tries to benefit from her hoisted love.

But Zina discovers his intentions, so she leaves him for the old man with the fortune in mind.

The play ends with Zina winning and the two finding parties retreating when their scenarios fail.

The music is spontaneously injected with a fanfare of rifles, cries of applause, and the sudden entrance of a fat Mexican man.

Playing a self-appointed

arbitrator, he convinces the fortune seekers to come to a compromise deal. Needless to say the compromise is not without some material gain for himself.

The Mexican relies on military force to get the parties to agree.

When the deal is signed orally, he makes everyone sing and dance to a Mexican folkloric tune, and the parties do so with pleasure.

The audience may notice that the characters who work in the charity societies are thieves. They are used to spending charity funds for their own benefit.

More or less, the play refers to the Arab World, Arab governments that depend on co-Arab countries for solutions to their internal and regional problems and crises. The play blames the new world's order for corruption everywhere.

"Arts can be explained in many different ways. I don't like to put the audience inside the jail of my viewpoints. Art is not a kind of goods, or a political speech that has only one meaning. Each one of the audience may look at the play from a different angle and may see various ideas and thoughts. So, the same artistic work may bear many explanations. For this reason, I will not state what my real intentions are," Mansour Rahabani, author of the play, told the Jordan Times.

"Man, freedom, and change are the most important factors in our lives. But in the new world, the new systems in the world, believe in torture, war, and do not support peace processes. All of them killed Man, killed freedom and killed peace," said Mr. Rahabani.

The playwright studied music for fifteen years, as well as philosophy and history. He believes that music alone is not enough to produce a masterpiece. Knowledge of music should go with general knowledge.

"I am positive that no country around the world can succeed in writing or producing a good musical play like this one except the Anglo-Saxons. They are better than us in the technical side only, which is definitely related to financing.

"But, we are better than them in all other matters of arts: music, dance, and dialogue.

The play was directed by Nicola Daniel.

It was vivacious, colourful, full of melodies and folkloric dances, and the characters succeeded in capturing the audience.

### King heads for Washington

(Continued from page 1)

"Jordan is on the path towards an honourable, just and durable peace," the King said. "The current developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track are not a mere coincidence but reflect a clear decision on safeguarding higher national interests."

The prolonged Middle East conflict, he said, has led to a state of instability and absence of peace as part of Arab heritage and culture.

"Jordan must accustom itself to a new pattern of thinking oriented towards peace which should benefit all peoples of the region and guarantee security and peace for them," the King said.

The King also voiced appreciation of the government and its approach to achieving higher national interests.

The Council of Ministers expressed absolute support for the King's endeavours and stressed strong commitment and united support behind his leadership.

in Hebron

We need to increase the number of workers from 100 to 30,000," said Ziad Atash, Palestinian head of the security forces. "He was referring to the self-government and Israel. He was referring to the number of permits Israel gave to Palestinians.

## How the Tutsi rebels won Rwanda

By Christopher McDougall  
The Associated Press

BUTARE, Rwanda — How did a young band of Tutsi guerrillas turn the tables on government troops and murderous Hutu militias and blaze from exile to victory?

Fight, fade and confuse. Those are the laws the guerrilla army lives by.

And the young rebels in castoff fatigues, plastic shades and high-top sneakers learned from 12 years in hiding: the less you say, the longer you live.

A month ago, if you asked rebel Commander Major Wilson "Cybone" Rutayisire how many fighters he had in the field, he'd smile and say, "perhaps many."

But since then, the rebels have beaten a government army that had better fortifications, weapons and air power and forced more than 100,000 hardened Hutu militias to drop their machetes and skulk into hiding.

Flush with victory, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, today 20,000 strong, is now more than willing to explain how they did it.

"Go back to 1959," said Cybone, his nome de guerre.

Tutsi were no more than 15 per cent of the central African nation but, as the country's traditional leaders, lorded over the majority Hutus.

"But Belgium was the real ruler, and instead of uniting against the common colonial enemy, Hutu attacked Tutsi and sent many of us into exile," said Cybone.

In refugee camps in neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda, the first Tutsi revolutionaries were

born. Called "inyenzi," or "cockroaches," they stole into Rwanda on small hit-and-run raids from across the border.

"Ah, it was miserable," Cybone winced. Untrained and disorganized, the only thing the inyenzi accomplished was to irritate the Hutus to even further attacks, which drove more Tutsi into exile.

Soundly whipped, the Tutsis gave up their arms, until 20 years later, when the children of the first refugees picked them up again. "We were born in refugee camps. We had no schools, no jobs, no land, nothing. We had nothing to lose," said the slight, 24-year-old major, taking a swig of orange soda. So when Ugandan rebel leader Yoweri Museveni launched his guerrilla movement against Idi Amin, many of the young Tutsis took to the bush with him.

The young Rwandans quickly became renowned as fierce fighters, said Francis Besesego, a Ugandan safari guide before the war.

"Everyone in Uganda heard about those boys, but nobody wanted to meet them."

When Mr. Museveni finally seized control of Uganda in 1986, 3,000 of his officers were Rwandan Tutsis. They waited four more years, gathering skill and weapons, then deserted en masse to launch an attack on their mother country.

"Another disaster," said Cybone, noting the rebels in exile didn't know the lay of the land and had no support from the people.

But after the rebel commander was killed in the first battle, and the next two generals killed in the second,

the rebels had to find a way to fight for maximum gain with minimum casualties. It was back to the hills.

"We abandoned heavy weapons and went to guerrilla tactics — ambush, surprise attacks, always on foot with mortars and small weapons," Cybone said. "We came down from the volcanic cliffs before dawn, attacked, and were gone."

There was one vital lesson: never, never mistreat civilians, who could provide food, information and cover.

A raid on Ruhengeri prison in February of 1991 was a master stroke. Besides freeing hundreds of political and common criminals, many of whom became grateful new recruits, the rebels became overnight heroes.

The humiliating raid inspired Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana to begin negotiations that led to a peace treaty in 1993. But it also led him to form his Hutu militias, known as Interahamwe, or "those who attack together."

Habyarimana died in an unexplained plane crash on April 6, and within hours Interahamwe across the country were slaughtering Tutsi men, women and children.

"We had to move fast," said Cybone. "We had to fight like guerrillas, but hold territory and protect our people as well."

The rebels launched a new offensive, blitzing down from their mountain hideaway, outnumbering and surrounding an enemy target, then leaving minimum troops to hold them and secretly moving the rest on to the next target.

"That's how we won Kigali



Tutsi refugees from the southwestern Rwandan town of Butare reaching the city limits of Gikongoro. Butare was seized by the Rwandan Patriotic Front at the beginning of the month (AFP)

one day, and three days later we were advancing 99 miles away — half our troops had already gone there."

The rebels never deviated

from their stingy use of troops.

"We surrounded the army, shelled them for several days, then, as if by accident,

opened an escape route," said Cybone.

"A trapped enemy is dangerous — a fleeing enemy is easy to hit."

## Hong Kong's modest pension plan under attack

By Jonathan Sprague  
Reuter

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's plan for an old-age pension scheme may be modest, but its many opponents have denounced it as a budgetary time bomb and an attempt to impose a Western welfare state on a proud Asian society.

Academics, the business community and Beijing all gave the government's proposals a hostile reception, with some saying they will erode the Chinese tradition that children should care for elderly parents and not look to the state for help.

Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten denies the scheme will suffice the Hong Kong ethic of hard work, self-reliance and minimum government on which the British colony has hauled itself from the third to the first

world in only a few decades. "Nobody can regard this as an extremely expensive disincentive for business or as a socialist burden which Hong Kong is going to have to carry. It's prudent. It's responsible. It's compassionate," Mr. Patten told reporters.

"Some people suggest that this is the creation of a welfare state in Hong Kong, it's the beginning of a slippery slope. I do think people should just have a look at the figures."

The plan, announced this month, proposes contributions of 1.5 per cent of wages from both workers and employers and offers pensions of Hong Kong dollars 2,300 (\$295) a month to people over 65.

Mr. Patten noted the scheme would cost only 1.5 per cent of Hong Kong's gross domestic product —

which per head of population has passed Britain's — against an average of 15 per cent in many Western states.

Officially, the plan is only a proposal, which if accepted by the community will not go into force until at least 1997, the year Hong Kong returns to China.

Old people mostly welcomed the proposals, with reservations about the long wait till they come into force and the low level of pensions — \$295 a month does not go far in the colony.

But as usual they were drowned out by the colony's business community, which fears Hong Kong will make the same mistake as the West — creating a welfare state during times of high economic growth only to find out later the plans are unaffordable.

"What happens if there's a downturn in the Hong Kong

economy? You've still got to pay out the money to elderly people but your income will be down," said Ian Perkin, chief economist of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

"Mr. Patten said he has written to Chinese officials and hopes to win their approval for the proposals.

But Beijing has attacked them through local newspapers it controls, and the possible implementation date is also the year Hong Kong becomes a special administrative region of China.

"Following inflation, contributions needed by the scheme will be bigger and bigger," said one such paper, the Wen Wei Po. "By that time, the future special administrative region government will be burdened by a debt mountain and the British would not give a damn."

Apart from money, the

is making way for the nuclear family and relatives are not caring for the elderly as well as in the past.

A glance around the region indicates that the Hong Kong plan is not simply a case of a British colonial government trying to impose its values on a Chinese population.

In Taiwan, a Chinese society ruled by Chinese, thousands of older citizens marched last month to demand pensions for everyone over 65.

Singapore, whose elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew champions "Asian values," has one of the most comprehensive welfare systems in the region.

Under the Central Provident Fund (CPF) scheme, set up as long ago as 1955, Singaporeans have to save 20 per cent of their pay and employers have to match that amount.

## PRIZES FOR YOUNG JORDANIAN SCIENTISTS

### "Trying Is Winning"

Working toward enhancing scientific manpower in Jordan, prizes for young scientists are now granted for Jordanians by the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in collaboration with the Royal Scientific Society. Submission for these prizes is open till October 1994.

Prizes are awarded every year rotating among three fields of pure science: Biology, Mathematics and Physics. Young Jordanian scientists are now invited to apply for the TWAS PRIZE which amounts to \$2,000.

So, if you are a Jordanian, resident in Jordan, and of an age not exceeding 40 years, we will be glad to receive your contribution in any of the three fields specified above, taking into consideration that submission is open till October 1994. We are ready to provide you with any additional information about the rules & mechanism of submission. Interested applicants are kindly requested to contact Mrs. Majd Khayyat Talhouni at the following address:

The TWAS Unit  
Royal Scientific Society  
P.O. Box 92581  
Amman - Jordan  
Fax.: 844806  
Tel.: 844701  
Telex: 21276 RAMAH JO

## Dollar revival gathers pace after U.S. verbal support

LONDON (R) — The dollar's revival strengthened Friday as it racked up further gains after unambiguous Washington assurances that the Clinton administration wants a stronger U.S. currency.

Although few were willing to say the dollar's troubles were over, the steady swing back towards 1.60 marks showed a week is a long time in foreign exchange markets, as it is in politics.

Last Friday the dollar closed in Europe at 1.5529 marks and 97.76 yen. On Wednesday of that week the U.S. unit hit a closing low of 1.5180 and 96.72.

At mid-morning in the financial trading session this week in Europe, the dollar was up at 1.5945 marks, ahead one and three-quarter pennies from Thursday although buying tapered off as the currency approached a resistance area near 1.5960.

Its gains against the yen were less pronounced as it traded around the 99-yen level from Thursday's 98.55.

The dollar has strengthened all week as the market began to adjust to the view that the fundamentals of the major world economies may not justify further falls and the currency's likely next

move might be upwards.

On Thursday, the Clinton administration took advantage of the changing mood by stressing that it wants the dollar to strengthen against the Japanese yen and the German mark to boost the U.S. economy and to encourage skittish investors.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers said other industrialised nations felt that a further dollar decline was a threat to global economy.

"I believe in a strong dollar, I believe that very strongly," said Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen after speaking to a conference celebrating 50 years of global cooperation through the World Bank and IMF.

President Bill Clinton and Mr. Bentsen have come under past suspicion because of earlier comments they made that market forces should set the dollar's value and that a cheaper dollar might help lower the yawning U.S. trade gap with Japan.

Thursday's verbal support fell well short of the 1985 Plaza agreement by the U.S. and other leading nations that they would work to weaken the then-overstrong dollar. At the Group of Seven summit in Naples early

this month, Mr. Clinton and other leaders passed up the chance to firmly back the dollar, and this largely contributed to the currency's mid-month plunge.

Now the U.S. assurances are accompanied by the prospect of a further rise in U.S. interest rates, although not immediately, to restrain inflation following signals from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to Congress on Wednesday.

Further testimony from Mr. Greenspan is set for Saturday and will be closely watched as always by the markets.

Global financier George Soros has also joined the intense debate over the dol-

lar, saying the United States and other Group of Seven countries were responsible for its recent shakiness.

"We are in a very serious situation," Mr. Soros told reporters at the Bretton Woods conference on global cooperation. "It's time for the authorities to pay attention."

The dollar traded as high as 1.5945 marks in New York on Thursday, the same as in Europe on Friday, and key targets on the upside are 1.61 and 1.6150, some analysts said.

"After such a big move up we could fall back a bit but the dollar should head for the weekend in high spirits, for a change," said a dealer at a British bank in London.

REUTERS/PA Wire

remainder via new receipts. But Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said he would hold to his promise of no new taxes.

Next year, the government hopes to achieve a positive balance net of debt-servicing interest charges worth 34,140 billion lira, equivalent to two per cent of GDP.

For this year, Rome adopted a balancing item of 5,000 billion lira to counter a

and non-diplomatic staff of missions to the new body.

Germany, which is moving its capital to Berlin after 1996 and had offered its present parliament as the headquarters for the WTO, has expressed disappointment that the European Union and the United States did not fight for Bonn.

Swiss officials at one point accused the German government of using "big power muscle" in the contest.

But the Prepcos, which met after its sub-committee on finance and administration had earlier in the day recommended approval of Geneva, offered a note of consolation to the Germans.

It thanked the Bonn authorities "for their generous and competitive offer" and

expressed conviction that the city "will provide an excellent venue for international organisations in the future."

Creation of the WTO was the centrepiece of the final act of the seven-year Uruguay Round negotiations, signed by well over 100 countries in Morocco. The accord has yet to be ratified by major powers, including the United States.

The WTO will gradually absorb the GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which has its headquarters in Geneva since its foundation in 1948 as an interim body.

REUTERS/PA Wire

GATT diplomats are keen

to ensure that pledges made

by the Swiss authorities during the negotiations — which

also include construction of

some new premises — are confirmed in a formal text.

## Geneva beats Bonn for seat of new world trade body

work.

Staying in Geneva, it indicated, would also help ensure that the transition to the WTO — which also has to make a much more difficult choice of who will be its director general — would be as smooth as possible.

But the Prepcos also adopted a condition recommended by the subcommittee — that negotiations with the Swiss authorities for a full legal agreement be brought to "a satisfactory conclusion" before signature of a final accord.

REUTERS/PA Wire

Swiss diplomats are keen to ensure that pledges made by the Swiss authorities during the negotiations — which

also include construction of

some new premises — are confirmed in a formal text.

## Rome agrees budget plan foreseeing slashed '95 deficit

ROME (AFP) — The Italian cabinet adopted late Thursday a 1995 outline budget foreseeing a reduced deficit of 136,600 billion lira (\$86 billion), largely taken up by budget cuts.

Next year, the government hopes to achieve a positive balance net of debt-servicing interest charges worth 34,140 billion lira, equivalent to two per cent of GDP.

Up until the end of 1997, the government will need to find 117,000 billion lira worth

of new receipts and spending cuts spread over the 1994-97 period. The 5,000 billion lira to be trimmed from the budget this year and the 45,000 billion in 1995 will be followed by 32,000 billion in 1996 and another 35,000 billion in 1997.

The cabinet document revealed Italy's privatisation programme is set to inject some 10,000 billion lira per annum into state coffers over

the period in question, to assure some of the need for cuts.

Berlusconi's team also adopted a number of measures presented by Labour Minister Clemente Mastella to boost the employment market.

His package involves setting a maximum of 12 months for fixed-term contracts and various schemes to lighten the burden to firms of taking on extra employees.

Mr. Berlusconi said he believed the figures ought to be enough to "reassure interna-

tional markets" after several days of bickering amongst his coalition partners.

Before the cabinet meeting, the three coalition party heads — Mr. Berlusconi (Forza Italia), Gianfranco Fini (National Alliance) and Umberto Bossi (Northern League) — had got together to discuss policy.

Afterwards, Mr. Fini emerged to say that the "summit went very well and an agreement was reached on the budgetary plan."

## Dollar recovery seen unsustainable; further weakness likely

This report, which covers the week from Thursday July 14, 1994 until Wednesday July 20, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

### Overview

After showing pronounced weakness last week, the dollar has recovered back to DM/USD 1.57 and JPY/USD 99 level, but we do not believe that this marks a sea change in dollar sentiment. The underlying problems of low foreign confidence in U.S. economic and foreign policy and weak capital outflows from Japan seem unlikely to turn around anytime soon. Some part of the bounce in the dollar can be attributed to expectations by some that the Bundesbank will cut official interest rates. The dollar may have also benefited from statements from a former U.S. Treasury official from the Carter administration, C. Fred Bergsten, who is believed by some currency traders to have the attention of the White House.

Mr. Bergsten said that he now believes the yen is close to its peak and will stabilise between 100 and 110 yen. Mr. Bergsten in May had been calling for the dollar to trade in the 90-to-100 range to bring Japan's trade surplus in line. Mr. Bergsten's comments reinforce recent statements by administration officials that the U.S. sees no advantage in a weaker dollar. It remains to be seen, however, whether the change in administration policy will matter much. U.S. officials started trying to date up the dollar in early May, with little success to date.

In our view, the administration is still unlikely to subordinate domestic monetary policy to currency considerations, setting the stage for further dollar weakness. This is a case of "watch what they do, not what they say." We maintain our 6- and 12-month forecasts of the dollar moving to 95 yen and 1.50 Deutschemarks.

Technical View: Despite a very difficult beginning, the dollar managed to finish the week ended July 15 on a firm note and cut the overall loss in the dollar index to less than 0.5 per cent. The greenback did, however, lose ground against all six of the major currencies that we regularly discuss. Medium term momentum remains weak, and from an Elliott Wave perspective, we are inclined to count the decline from the early June high as the "third of a third" within the overall trend from the February high. Under that count, there appears to be strong Fibonacci support in the 84.00-85.00 area, with most of the

### Japanese yen

The Japanese yen gained 0.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 15, including a move to further new all-time highs through 97.00 Y/U.S.S. Even so, sentiment remains only neutral, although it has been deteriorating in recent weeks. Despite the currency's strength, short term momentum continues to have a downward bias. Thus, any upcoming test of the recent highs will not be confirmed and could well complete the rally pattern from the early June lows. If so, we would be inclined to look for a correction back to at least the 100.40-101.40 area, and perhaps beyond; benchmark support remains at 106.112. Resistance exists near 97.20, then below 93.

### Deutschmark

Fundamental View: After showing pronounced weakness last week, the dollar has recovered to DM/USD 1.57. Some part of the bounce in the dollar can be attributed to expectations that the Bundesbank will cut official interest rates. Those making the case for a cut in German interest rates can point to better-than-expected M3 growth in June, with the headline rate falling to 11.3 per cent from 13.4 per cent in the previous month. But money growth remains well above the bank's target range of 4 per cent-to-6 per cent, tilting the odds in favour of a more cautious approach toward easing by the Bundesbank. The west German producer price index for June was also lower than expected showing a 0.1 per cent decline from May and only a 0.4 per cent increase from the year before.

Even with another discount rate cut in Germany and further tightening in the U.S., we still expect the dollar to trade lower to DM/USD 1.50 in twelve months time. There continues to be low confidence in the U.S. administration's economic and foreign policy while Chancellor Kohl appears to be gaining support. Other factors include ongoing current and trade account deterioration and further evidence that European economies are strengthening while the U.S. economy is slowing.

Technical View: The Deutschmark rallied 0.6 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment is at its most overbought level since October 1992. Despite the currency's recent strength, short term momentum is managing support. Other factors include ongoing current and trade account deterioration and further evidence that European economies are strengthening while the U.S. economy is slowing.

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Technical View: The British pound gained 0.8% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 15. The currency continues to test the upper end of its long term trading range and in turn, the 1993-1994 high at \$1.586 U.S./GBP. Sentiment is at its most overbought level since September 1992. Medium term momentum is constructive. However, short term momentum is peaking, so the currency could well be under near term pressure.

First support exists near \$1.51, the lower end of the trading range at \$1.48 is second support. The DM cross moved to its lowest level since May of last year. While short term momentum confirmed those lows, it is oversold and is firming.

### Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The U.S. dollar rally during the week caused the British pound to trade lower, down to DM/GBP 2.43. The bigger rally of the U.S.\$ against the DM, up to DM/GBP 2.43. The pound is currently trading in the range of our 3 month forecast. Our longer-term outlook is that the pound trend upwards against the dollar to U.S.\$/GBP 1.60 in 6 months and 1.63 in 12-months time. Against the mark, we expect the pound to recover some lost ground and trade near DM/GBP 2.45 in 12-months time, though we do not rule out further near-term weakness as suggested by our 6 month forecast of DM/GBP 2.40. The fundamentals augur well for the pound in the longer term.

Our interest rate forecast is that in 12 months, U.K. yield spread against Germany will be 175 basis points for money market instruments (3-month) and 150 B.P. for 10-year bonds. The second quarter GDP numbers are expected to reveal that output was up over 3 per cent on the corresponding period last year. The public sector borrowing requirement for June at 2.86 billion pounds was 1 billion lower than expected and down 1.5 billion pounds from the May figure.

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 23, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A double trine of Saturn and Mars provides you with a good opportunity to evaluate the personal aspects of your life and to work out any improvements that you feel are necessary.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your business and financial affairs in better order. Be sure to keep promises you have made to others.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more considerate of the needs of family members and establish more harmony at home. Avoid ooc who gossip too much about a new project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 19) Show appreciation to those who have power over our affairs and gain further goodwill. Use modern methods to improve your endeavours.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) See what you can do about enlarging your vision so that you can advance in your line of endeavour. Be wise to any situation which comes up.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take no risks with your health at this time. Handle responsibilities more efficiently and they will become easier.

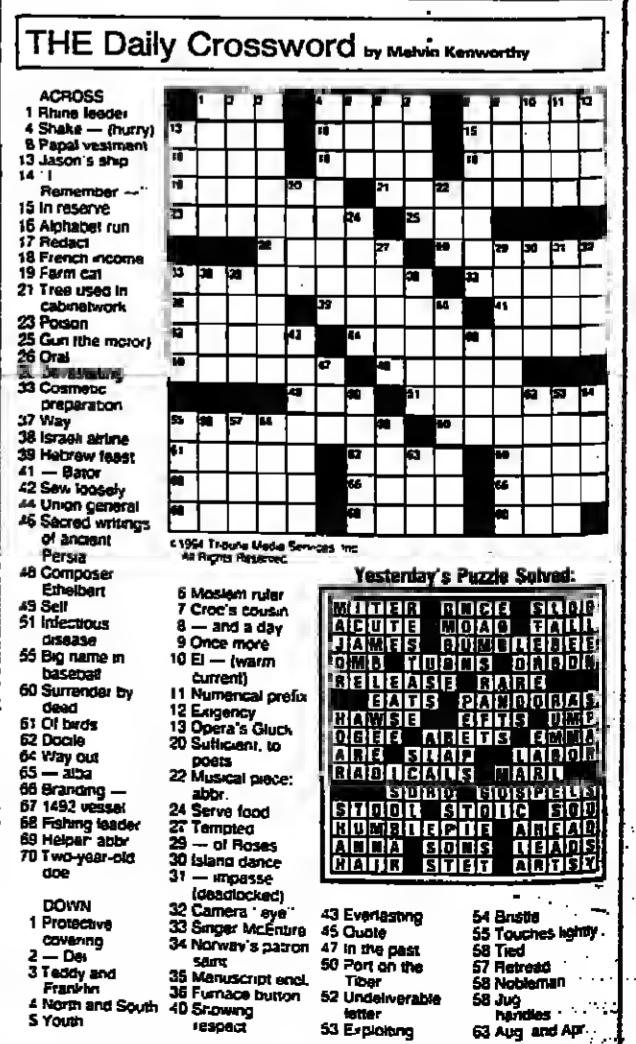
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study your financial position and then confer with experts in order to improve it. Take no risks in motion at this time.

ARIANUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use tact with others and they soon will give you the favours you desire. The evening is fine for social pleasures you have a desire for.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to communicate well with associates and can advance in career matters. Sidestep a troublemaker who will give you problems.

REUTERS/PA Wire

## THE Daily Crossword





## Graf wins one after her Waterloo at Wimbledon

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Steffi Graf returned to action for the first time since her stunning opening-round loss at Wimbledon and defeated Nicola Provis 6-2, 6-1 in the second round of the Pan-American Tennis Classic Thursday night.

"I felt really good actually," said Graf, who had a first-round bye and had not played in three weeks. "I haven't played much, only the last eight or nine days that I started hitting and working out. I felt pretty good out there."

The layoff was one of the longest of Graf's career and it followed consecutive losses to Mary Pierce in the semifinals of the French Open and to Lori McNeil at Wimbledon.

"I never had three weeks off for a long time," Graf said. "It's a nice change. I had time for myself. That will help the next couple of weeks."

For the record, Graf said she went fishing, strolled on the beach and went to the movies, sometimes twice a day, and even did a little roller blading.

"I did whatever I felt like," the world's top-ranked women's player said.

That trend continued for 49 minutes against Provis, who is ranked about 300 places behind Graf.

While she struggled with her first serve at times, the

25-year-old German had an awesome forehand in beating the Australian in the tournament, which is classified as an exhibition.

Graf will play in a sanctioned tournament next week in San Diego. She will then play in Montreal and an exhibition prior to the U.S. Open.

The Provis-Graf matchup was interesting because Provis last year pulled one of the major surprises by beating Graf in a Federation Cup match. It proved to be Graf's only loss between April and November.

There was no repeat Thursday.

Graf broke Provis twice in the first three games of the opening set, before Provis battled back to make it 3-2. Graf then won the next three to finish off the set, when Provis hit a backhand long on serve point.

Graf won the first four games of the second set. She even had some fun in the opening game, running Provis all over the court with lobs to gain an advantage.

By the end of the point even Provis was laughing at her futility.

Graf, a five-time Wimbledon champion, eventually closed out the match with a ripping forehand, cross-court winner.

Graf will play Pam Shriver

in the quarterfinals. Earlier Thursday, Lisa Raymond advanced to the quarterfinals when sixth-seeded Patty Fendick retired in the second set because of a pulled stomach muscle.

Raymond led 6-4, 4-2 when Fendick was forced to quit in the battle of two-time NCAA champions.

Fendick, 29, who played at Stanford, was not available for comment.

Raymond, who played at Florida, took the first set by breaking Fendick at 15 in the ninth game and then closed out the set by winning at 15 in the next game. The second set was even until Raymond broke in the fifth game for a 3-2 lead and then held at love in the sixth.

In other second-round matches, no. 3 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa defeated Atsugiyama of Japan 6-1, 6-1 in 64 minutes. While no. 8 Marketa Kochta defeated Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

Kochta, who was born in Prague, won the final two points of the tiebreaker and took command in the second set with a break in the seventh game for a 4-3 lead.

The other quarterfinals pair Raymond and no. 4 Helena Sukova; Kochta and no. 11 Louarsabibvily, and no. 5 Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere and Coetzer.



## United States get home advantage in Fed Cup

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The United States, who have won the Federation Cup a record 14 times, will face Austria at home in the first round of the new "World Group," when the competition changes its name and format next year.

With "top-ten" players Aranza Sanchez, Conchita Martinez, Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez and Mary Pierce picking the names out of the famous trophy at the Waldstadion here Friday, the Americans squeezed with delight when they landed a home tie against the Bulgarians for April 22-23.

Called the "Fed Cup" and using a similar format to the men's Davis Cup, teams will in future play four singles and then finish with a doubles over two days.

In the same half of the draw as the Americans, fourth-seeded France also pulled out a home tie against South Africa at a special ceremony attended by scores of players and officials inside the Waldstadion where this year's competition has reached the quarterfinal stage.

Top-seeds Spain, however, will travel to Bulgaria while third-seed Germany play

hosts to Japan.

In Group One, Indonesia will have a home clash against top-seeds Argentina while the Slovak Republic will travel to Australia. And second seeds Netherlands will play away to Sweden while fourth seeds Italy have home advantage against Canada.

The Federation Cup, which was originally launched with 16 nations playing off in London in 1963, has attracted a record entry of 83 nations for 1995.

In its new form, the four first-round losers in the "World Group" will face the four first-round winners of "Group One" to decide the composition of the 1996 World Group.

Similarly the four first-round losers in "Group One" will play the four winners of the regional qualifying to decide who plays in "Group One" the following year.

All other nations will play in regional qualifying events under Europe/Africa, the Americas and Asia/Oceania. These events will continue to be run on a round-Robin basis.

"We are tremendously excited about this new format," said the ITF's Fed Cup Executive Director Debbie

Jevans after the draw. "We think the new arrangements will make the matches even more exciting for the players and spectators."

On Thursday, the United States, Spain and Bulgaria won both singles and the doubles to advance 3-0 Thursday, qualifying for the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup.

Austria also qualified, winning the singles for 2 points, but losing the doubles against Australia.

France, Japan, Germany and South Africa advanced to the quarterfinals Wednesday.

American Mary Joe Fernandez won the first set 6-0 and was leading the 4-1 in the second set before her Canadian opponent, Helen Kelesi, withdrew with a strained thigh, which was already bandaged before the match started.

Lindsay Davenport of the U.S., ranked sixth by the WTA tour, dominated the second match against Canada's Patricia Hy to win 6-2, 6-4.

He managed breaks in the third and fifth games of the second set, but finally succumbed.

Gigi Fernandez and Zina Garrison Jackson defeated

Canada's Jill Hetherington and Rene Simpson Alter in the doubles 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain took the first singles beating Argentine Patricia Tarabini 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-2.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario followed with the second singles win over Florentina Labat 6-1, 6-4.

And the Spanish doubles team Marie Angeles Mintol and Neus Avila beat Labat and Bettina Folco-Vilella 6-1, 6-4.

Katherina Maleeva Trounch Romana Tedjakusuma 6-2, 6-1, and sister Magdalena Maleeva swept past Yayuk Basuki 6-3, 6-3 to lead Bulgaria past Indonesia.

Bulgaria's doubles team of Lubomira Bacheva and Svetlana Krivenchova swept past Tedjakusuma and Natalia Sostrisno 6-1, 6-3.

Petra Ritter defeated Rachel McQuillan 6-4, 6-1, and Judith Wiesner beat Kristine Radford 6-0, 6-3 to give Austria an unbeatable 2-0 lead over Australia.

Australia came back in the doubles with Elizabeth Smylie and Reeo Stubb salvage one point in the doubles over Sylvia Plischke and Barbara Schett.

Almost immediately,

## Tax official quits over World Cup team's duty-free spree

BRASILIA (AP) — Brazil's top tax official quit in a huff Thursday after higher-ups allowed the country's returning World Cup victors to bring home tonnes of merchandise duty-free.

According to press reports, the players threatened to return medals given to them by President Itamar Franco and boycott a waiting victory parade if their luggage was not let through.

The negotiations finally ended with an order from higher-ups to let the team; coaches and other members of the Brazilian delegation to let them through, according to the reports.

Almost immediately, Secretary of International

Revenue Osiris Lopes Filho resigned in protest, saying Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero's decision to let the luggage in bad stripped him of his authority.

Ricupero, star of the Brazilian team, denied that threats had been made by team members and said they had only brought in "personal items and gifts."

"We were already in the firetrucks to begin the parade when they announced that, when the luggage would be released the following morning, and that's why we complained, but without threats," he said.

## Much work remains for Atlanta's 1996 Olympic organising committee

ATLANTA (AP) — With just two years remaining before the torch is lit to start the Atlanta Olympics, organisers are sprinting to raise enough money to stage the games.

Top officials of the Atlanta games marked the two-year milestone Tuesday in a fitting fashion: Announcing the latest big-money Olympic sponsor.

Atlanta-based Delta Airlines signed on as a "partner" sponsor, which usually is valued at about \$40 million in cash and services.

The bulk of Delta's contributions — about two-thirds — will be in travel and cargo services. The carrier's cash outlay, which will be diverted from Delta's current advertising budget, will be less than \$10 million, according to Delta chairman Ronald W. Allen.

"Delta has been at our side from the very start of our efforts to get the bid," said Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

They flew countless Olympic officials to Atlanta before the site decision on the 1996 games was made, and I've personally flown more than a million miles (1.6 million kilometres) with Delta since beginning my Olympic work."

Signing up the final sponsors and negotiating remaining international television rights contracts are among the top priorities as ACOG enters the final stretch of preparations.

"It's a significant challenge," said Arthur M. Gignilliat Jr., a member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority, a civic panel that is overseeing ACOG's preparations.

"The closer you're involved with the Olympics, the shorter that two-year time span seems to become," Gignilliat said.

Payne said the shrinking calendar poses no cause for alarm, however, because he believes preparations are right on schedule.

"I think there's excitement, not urgency to it," Payne said of the two-year plan. "It's a factor of being behind schedule. And we are not, nor have we ever been."

The planning committee still needs to raise about 45 per cent of a \$1.58 billion budget that has scant room for error. About one-third of that outstanding figure is budgeted to come from ticket sales, with the remainder mainly from sponsorships, TV contracts and merchandise sales.

ACOG recently announced ticket prices, which will average about \$40 apiece. Tickets go on sale next year.

ACOG's ability to stage the games by relying solely on private funding sources, such as corporate sponsorships and licensing fees, has caused gnashing of teeth from the time Atlanta was awarded the games. Most Olympics are financed with significant government assistance.

Most recently, International Olympic Committee (IOC) Vice President Richard Pound fretted over ACOG's

lack of a safety net, saying plans for the games could be forced to scale back if funding falls short.

"Thank goodness we're dealing with that situation in the United States, where the private sector is prepared currently and in fact has historically supported the Olympic movement," Payne said.

Olympic officials already have signed their biggest TV contract, a record \$456 million deal with the NBC network for U.S. rights. A lucrative deal for European rights also has been signed, but TV contracts for Japan, Australia and several smaller markets are incomplete.

One area where ACOG is making visible progress is in construction, where in recent weeks ground has been broken for the aquatics, equestrian and field hockey venues. Construction is to begin later this year for the archery, cycling, preliminary basketball shooting and rowing facilities.

The biggest projects, the 65,000-seat Olympic stadium and the Olympic village to house athletes, have been under construction since last year.

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said. "We used to plan their development very carefully. And it worked."

"Now they don't always choose the right tournaments or they start playing professionally too early."

"Some 14 and 15-year-olds here already have sponsors and if you have money, you can choose the tournaments and coaches you want."

Zlesak's thoughts were echoed by last year's World Cup finalist Jana Novotna.

"For juniors here now, it is just money, money, money. They don't really understand what competing for a Grand Slam title really means."

"I think there's a big hole in the tennis ranks here. We still have good players, but they leave as soon as they learn the game," she said.

In communist Czechoslovakia, controls over travel documents and foreign work permits regulated the number of coaches leaving the country. Zlesak said this kept the "brain drain" to coaching to a minimum.

"After moeey, the most serious problem we face is with coaching. Before there was a limit to the number of coaches who could go abroad but now everyone is free to go. And they do because it can be much more lucrative for them."

And while top Czech trainers Tomas Smid, Jan Kodes and the former coach of Steffi Graf, Pavel Stozil have returned to the country, more top quality coaching will be needed if the Czech Republic is to continue as a dominant force.

Ironically, life under communist rule may have given Czech players a mental edge over their opponents, says Pavel Korda, coach of the team that won the 1980 Davis Cup and father of world number 13 Petr Korda.

"As a nation we learned to overcome and work in very inventive ways and this has followed us onto the courts," he said.

Now, Korda said with a smile, the Czechs may have to look elsewhere for inspiration.

"Sometimes I joke with people and tell them it's Czech beer that makes our players so good."

## NBA's Carlesimo to debut in Japan

NEW YORK (AP) — P.J. Carlesimo decided to go west when he left Seton Hall for his first NBA coaching job with the Portland Trail Blazers.

He'll be in the Far East, though, when he makes his debut, guiding his team against the Los Angeles Clippers in the opener of a two-game series in Japan.

Carlesimo's first game is one of 12 scheduled on Nov. 4, opening night of the 1994-95 NBA regular season. The 1,107-game schedule, released Thursday, continues through April 23.

The series in Japan, the third in six years the league has sent teams to Japan for a season-opening series, concludes the following night.

Others highlights on the schedule include:

— Milwaukee at Philadelphia on opening night in a game expected to mark the start of no. 1 draft choice Glen Robinson's career with the Bucks, as well as John Lucas' tenure as coach of the 76ers.

Charlotte at Chicago, also on opening night, in the first NBA game played in the Bulls' new home, the United Centre.

— New Jersey at Dallas, 23.

Nov. 5, in the return of Dick Motta as coach of the Mavericks. Motta, who coached Dallas for its first seven seasons, returns with 856 career wins, fourth in league history.

The first game between the defending champion Houston Rockets and New York Knicks, who lost the finals in seven games, Jan. 19, at Houston.

A rematch between the finalists a month later in a nationally televised Sunday afternoon game at New York.

— A Christmas day doubleheader, which kicks off a 26-game national television package. Seattle is at Denver in the opener, a rematch of last season's first-round playoff series won by the Nuggets, and New York is at Chicago in the second game, a rematch of a second-round

series.



Russia's Ugrumov crosses the finish line Thursday to win the 18th stage of the Tour de France (AFP photo)

## Russia's Ugrumov becomes new Tour de France hero

MORZINE, AVORIAZ, France (AP) —

The Tour de France was celebrating a hero Friday after Russia's Piotr Ugrumov crushed Miguel Indurain in a 47km race against the clock one and a half minutes behind the winner.

Ugrumov was even more heroic, relegating time trial specialist Indurain to third place, more than three minutes adrift.

However, Indurain knew that his fourth consecutive tour victory was not in doubt and decided not to push himself to hard when it became clear he was not going to win the stage.

"I didn't give everything I had," he admitted. "I didn't want to take any risks."

Second place went to Marco Pantani, who has also shown his mettle this week — an agonising fall on Wednesday's Alpine stage, losing a last-minute sprint with breakaway com-

panion Nelson Rodriguez of Colombia. Undaunted, he broke away for a superb solo victory on Thursday's 18th stage to Cluses.

Ugrumov's stunning performance in 72 hours on the tour has seen him leapfrog from ninth position, and more than 14min 8sec behind Indurain, to second place and 5min 39sec behind.

He is likely to stay second on Sunday in Paris.

Pantani is third overall at 7:19, followed by French Festina teammates Luc Leblanc (10:03) and Richard Virenque, the big loser of the day, who slipped from second to fifth (10:10).

In trouble right from the start, Virenque burst into tears soon after crossing the line.

## GOODWILL GAMES Start of swimming delayed one day

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) —

Swimming, the showcase event of Saturday's opening day of the Goodwill Games, will be pushed back one day because of renovation delays at the Ska indoor swimming pool, officials said Friday.

A technical committee decided Friday to hold the event in two sessions on Sunday. It had been set to begin Saturday and end Sunday. Officials said all of the events would be contested as scheduled.

Goodwill Games President Jack Kelly said an inspection of the pool early Friday showed a troublesome filtration system was still pumping out murky brown water as it has done for several days.

"There's no way they could swim in the pool the way it currently is," said Charlie Snyder, spokesman for the U.S. team. "The problem is they put charcoal directly into the filter rather than in a cloth sack and then into the filter."

Two days ago when I went to the pool for the first time the water was a brownish-black colour, this time it was green. The first time you could see the black lines on

the bottom, today you couldn't," Snyder added.

The delay is an embarrassment to Goodwill officials. Critics have suggested the games, the first major sports event in post-Soviet Russia, would be an organisational disaster. They have also questioned large spending on the event in a city deep in economic problems.

"It's not something that would mean changing the quality of the swim competition," Kelly said. "We have a very big programme and that (change in the swim schedule) could be accommodated."

Though many of the venues for the games have undergone extensive rehabs, the Ska pool has probably been the biggest reclamation project in a city well-worn by years of neglect.

Kelly said water tests showed the pool was safe, but he said holding competition in a pool with brown water would look bad on television.

"We want to make sure the aesthetics are what we want," Kelly said. "They (St. Petersburg organisers) want to portray this is a place where standards are like everywhere else."

## Abu Samra wins National Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hassan

Abu Samra and co-driver Khalid Al Naser Friday won the two-day National Rally, organised by the Petra Systems/Bull Computers, according to provisional results released Friday evening shortly after the two-stage event finished.

Abu Samra, driving a Daihatsu Charman SPL, was followed in second place by Mohammad Al Daoud and co-driver Faisal Saadoun who led leg 1, Edward Karyakos and co-driver Fawzi Shuaib, Bishara Quz'or and co-driver Burhan Abu Qura, Saleh Al Baha and co-driver Nabil Kurdi, and Mohammad Juma and co-driver Emad Juma.

The third place went to Ammar Hijazi and co-driver Khaled Hima in a V.W. Golf.

Only nine cars of the 20 that started the rally, only 14 started the second

stage after the withdrawal of Bashar Bustami and his co-driver Malek Hariri due to mechanical problems.

Mechanical failures also caused the withdrawal of five other competitors: Amjad Farah and co-driver Faisal Saadoun who led leg 1, Edward Karyakos and co-driver Fawzi Shuaib, Bishara Quz'or and co-driver Burhan Abu Qura, Saleh Al Baha and co-driver Nabil Kurdi, and Mohammad Juma and co-driver Emad Juma.

The first round casualties included Hassan Tabas and co-driver Alan Haddad, George Shamoun and Ahmad Shaqdeh, Salah Suleiman and Jihad Hakej, Islam Shari'a and Feras Amer as well as Mohammad Al Deiri and Amjad Al Sayouf.

## Don King pleads innocent to wire fraud

NEW YORK (AP) —

Convicted boxing promoter Don King declared in a packed federal courtroom Thursday that he was "complete innocent" of wire fraud charges.

"Not guilty," King proclaimed loudly at an arraignment before magistrate Nina Gershon, who set bail at \$250,000. King signed a personal recognisance bond.

"I'm completely innocent," King said of his most recent encounter with the federal government in a case marked by investigations and litigation.

"I believe in the American system of justice and I will be cleared," King said outside the courtroom. "I've done nothing to warrant this action."

Sarah Chapman, the prosecutor, said she could not comment beyond what was contained in the indictment.

King was indicted July 14 on nine counts of wire fraud. He is accused of filing false documents with Lloyds of London in order to collect \$350,000 worth of training expenses after a fight between Julio Cesar Chavez, the WBC super lightweight champion, and Harold Braizer was cancelled in June 1991. Chavez was cut on the nose eight days before the

match.

If convicted, King faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.

Gershon said King cannot travel outside the United States without permission.

A pre-trial conference before judge Lawrence McNamee was scheduled for next Tuesday. Peter Fleming, King's attorney, said his client would not attend.

King appeared in court at 9:45 a.m., wearing a grey suit, white shirt and red, grey and green tie. The grey in the tie matched the grey in his hair, which was standing tall, as usual.

While waiting for the proceedings to begin at shortly after 10:30 a.m., King passed time by facing the jury box and smiling broadly. Seated in the box was an artist sketching King's likeness.

Upon leaving the courthouse, King was confronted with a battery of microphones, television cameras and still photographers.

He again proclaimed his innocence, then ended the interview by saying, "only in America."

One of King's most quoted remarks has been, "I think I'm destined to be investigated until I die."

## Al Jazireh international women's basketball tourney kicks off today

By Aleen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazireh's international women's basketball tournament — an exceptional week-long sporting event grouping top five regional women's teams — begins today at the Sports Palace under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Syria's Al Jala', Lebanon's Homentmen, a select team from the occupied territories, in addition to a young promising team — Kefalovryos of Cyprus — will be competing for the title alongside Jordan's 1993 champions — Al Jazireh — as rivalry is expected to be quite tough with the participating teams all having a good record and reputation.

A quick review of the preparedness and experience of the competitors shows Lebanon's Homentmen to be the top contenders for the title.

With six players on the Lebanese national team, Homentmen are now considered one of the Arab World's top teams. Their new recruit Emma Beglarian at an astonishing height of 1.95 will surely give much impetus to their already mighty lineup trained by Lebanese national team coach Hagop Khach-

tion of regular competitions due to the civil war.

The Lebanese team boasts an astonishing record of winning their country's championship from 1956-1975, losing the title only once in 1968.

The team includes Gassian

and Vivian Sarkisian, Aline

Tchalian, Tatine Papazian,

Mircille Ajemian and Vartoung Markarian, a coherent

strong lineup together with

teammates Karmeh Khor

zian, Seta Vaslian, Anahid

Batmanian, Sanan Mar

arian, and Sophia Zaroukian

who last played in Jordan in

July 1992 when they were

hosted by Jordanian counter

parts Homentmen Amman.

During their visit they

crushed Al Jazireh — then

the Kingdom's third team —

80-29, and defeated team

50-48, and their hosts 56-16.

"We have a fair idea about

the competing teams, and we

are quite hopeful of achieving

a very good result," a confi

dent Khacheryan asserted.

"We are just out of our country's championship and have been training hard for the past three months," he added.

Al Jala' are Syria's second

ranked team this year after

losing the title to Al

Honyeh this season.

During friendly matches in

Aleppo earlier this year, Al

Jala' beat Al Jazireh twice

with a margin of 20 points.

The Cypriot team — Kefalovryos — is relatively the most inexperienced team,

making their first regional appearance.

The cish, which was originally based in the now Turkish-held town of Kythrea in northern Cyprus, is now based in the southeastern towns of Paralimni and Larnaca.

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and Vivian Sarkisian, Aline

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80-29, and defeated team

50-48, and their hosts 56-16.

"We have a fair idea about

the competing teams, and we

are quite hopeful of achieving

a very good result," a confi

dent Khacheryan asserted.

"We are just out of our country's championship and have been training hard for the past three months," he added.

Al Jala' are Syria's second

ranked team this year after

losing the title to Al

Honyeh this season.

During friendly matches in

Aleppo earlier this year, Al

Jala' beat Al Jazireh twice

with a margin of 20 points.

The Cypriot team — Kefalovryos — is relatively the most inexperienced team,

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have an uphill road in trying to regroup the women's national team and strengthen the base of women's basketball, especially after this year's competition was dealt a heavy blow with Al Jazireh's withdrawal, leaving Abu Nusair and Al Orthodoxi in the tournament. Al Husni and Al Watani recently formed women's teams but then pulled out of the competition while Al Ahli and Homentmen declined to participate this year.

The women's national team last competed in 1983 when women's basketball competitions were put on hold for over six years.

Since then, the former JBF announced the regrouping of the women's team in December 92. However players are still awaiting for practice to begin someday.

Together with Al Orthodoxi, Al Jazireh and Al Ahli are the top contenders for the season's basketball titles.

Al Jazireh last month clinched their first trophy of the season when they overcame Al Ahli to win the U-22 championship while Al Orthodoxi won the U-16 and women's title.

Al Jazireh, sponsored by Armax, are a growing powerhouse in Jordanian basketball. In addition to the women's title last year they also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division, and second in the under-19 competition.

## Derby winner Erhaab on retrieval mission

London (R) — Erhaab, dazzling in the Derby but undone by older horses in the Eclipse Stakes, seeks to restore his reputation Saturday.

The colt is 4-1 favourite for Ascot's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, the European mid-summer highlight.

Erhaab, ridden by Willie Carson, produced one of the finest finishing bursts for many years to win the Epsom Derby in June.

But the shorter 10-furlong (2-km) trip of the Eclipse Stakes caught him out against the five-year-old Ezzoud and last year's St. Leger winner Bob's Return.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Doctors report epidemics in northern Iraq

ZAKHO (AFP) — Hundreds of cases of typhoid and diarrhoea have been reported among children in northern Iraq in recent weeks, doctors have said. The outbreak was caused by cuts in electricity supplies which led to a lack of fresh water, said Dr. Heimad Cheralia of Zakho hospital. He said he was treating 100 cases a week, whereas several weeks ago there were only about 20 cases a week. "Most of the affected patients are children," he said. Dohuk province has been without power since June 20, after Turkey cut off electricity supplies, making it impossible to draw water from generator-driven wells. Some districts of the town of Dohuk have been without water for 10 days, the city's governor said.

## Ciller: Kurds have brainwashed West

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, rejecting Western concern over human rights in Turkey, said in an interview published on Friday that Kurdish separatists had brainwashed Washington and European governments. Her comments were issued as she met French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who has voiced concern over the arrest of Kurdish parliamentarians on charges carrying the death penalty. "Beware of disinformation. The PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) is killing citizens of Kurdish origin in south-east Anatolia. In fighting against the PKK, I am protecting them," Ms. Ciller told the conservative daily *Le Figaro*. "The separatists have changed strategy. Banned from Germany, they have moved to Greece... they will sell their ideas across the world, in the United States and in Europe."

## Bomb found by fuel line to U.S.-Turkish base

ANKARA (R) — A time bomb buried by a pipeline carrying aviation fuel to a southern Turkish military base used by U.S. planes was defused on Friday with just two minutes to spare, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported. The 10-kg bomb was planted near a pipeline taking the aircraft fuel from Mediterranean oil terminals to the joint Turkish-U.S. base in Incirlik, the agency said.

## France praises Moroccan amnesty

PARIS (R) — France on Friday welcomed Moroccan King Hassan's amnesty for 424 prisoners, most of them political opponents, as a sign of respect for human rights. French Foreign ministry spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said: "France is delighted at this administrative pardon which restores freedom and full rights to these prisoners. This measure was taken in respect of universally recognised human rights which are guaranteed in the Moroccan constitution." France and Morocco had long been at odds over the issue of political prisoners, although ties warmed last year after the election of conservative Gaullist-led government in Paris. The prisoners freed on Thursday included Islamic activists, Marxist-Leninists, students, trade unionists, two cartoonists, and people jailed for involvement in riots, a spokesman for Morocco's Human Rights Association (AMDH) said.

## Iran welcomes joint action with Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Iran welcomes cooperation with Turkey in tackling separatist Kurds and dissident Iranians, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Turkish newspaper. "We are ready to go as far as Turkey is ready to go and cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of security," Mr. Rafsanjani said in an interview with the Turkish Daily News published on Friday ahead of Turkish President Suleiman Demirel's visit to Iran on July 25-27. "We believe Turkey and Iran should not allow antagonistic elements to use the territory of one country to attack the territory of the other. If there is anything that jeopardises the security of the region the two countries should cooperate to destroy it."

## 100 killed in Iran fight against drugs

TEHRAN (AFP) — One hundred members of the security forces were killed and 500 others wounded in clashes with armed drug traffickers in the 12 months up to March 1994, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said Friday. Speaking before the Friday prayers at Tehran University, Mr. Besharati added 90,200 kilogrammes of various drugs had been seized in the same period. He did not say how many traffickers had been killed or wounded in the confrontations.

## Lebanon receives U.S. military vehicles

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's army on Friday received a shipment of U.S.-made armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and military trucks, military sources said. They said the shipment, which included 106 M113 APCs and 12 trucks, was part of a deal by which the United States agreed to sell Lebanon APCs, trucks and jeeps from one of its closed military bases in Germany at a symbolic price.

## Saudi man beheaded for rape

JEDDAH (AFP) — A Saudi man was beheaded here Friday for raping a five-year-old girl to death. Saudi state television reported, quoting an interior ministry statement. It said Abdullah Ghannmi, 30, had kidnapped the girl and "raped her until she died" before disposing of the body in an abandoned house. The execution raised to 16 the number of people beheaded in Saudi Arabia this year for various crimes including drug trafficking, according to official figures.

## Freed hostages arrive in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Two Chinese and seven of eight Pakistani hostages arrived here Friday from Kabul, where they were released after being held for more than a year by an Afghan warlord. Senior Pakistani and Chinese officials were at the airport for an emotional meeting with the hostages, kidnapped by Afghan guerrilla commander "Rocky" Mullah Abdul Salam since June last year. An eighth Pakistani hostage stayed in Kabul to rejoin relatives. Pakistan Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar, at the airport along with Foreign Minister Assef Ahmad Ali, said no ransom had been paid and the matter had been settled "amicably."

## Sudan declares unilateral ceasefire

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government has declared a unilateral ceasefire for Saturday in its war with southern rebels following an appeal by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, the president's official said in a statement. The communiqué, read out by government spokesman Abdur Basit Sabdarat on Friday, said the ceasefire move was an overture aimed to ensure the success of the current round of peace talks in the Kenyan capital. Government forces in southern Sudan have been ordered to stop fighting from noon on Saturday (1000 GMT) and told to open fire only in self-defence, the statement said. The move aimed to provide proof of the government's seriousness over the peace talks, said the statement, adding that the government was willing to take the risk even though the southern rebels had used past truces to plant mine fields.

## U.S. asks Israel to join Haiti force

TEL AVIV (AP) — The United States has asked Israel to join a multinational peacekeeping force envisaged in Haiti once the army-backed regime there is overthrown, an official said Friday. The disclosure came as the United States was reported considering an invasion to try and restore democratic rule in the Caribbean island nation.



HUMAN TRAGEDY: A Rwandan refugee walks his way through dozens of bodies lying on the side of the road north of Goma, Zaire. Tens of thousands of Rwandans left refugee camps near Goma on Friday to escape from a raging cholera epidemic now killing thousands of people (see page 5) (AFP photo)

## Iraq says it is abiding by ceasefire terms

TOKYO (Agencies) — The United Nations should recognise Iraq is complying with terms imposed at the end of the Gulf war and move to lift oil sanctions, and Iraqi envoy was quoted as saying in Japan on Friday.

"Iraq is faithfully meeting the U.N. terms and has been cooperative in dismantling weapons of mass destruction," special envoy Wissam Al Zahawi was quoted as saying by a Japanese Foreign Ministry official.

Mr. Zahawi, promoting Iraq's case for lifting of the U.N. embargo on Iraqi oil exports, met Foreign Ministry officials on the last leg of a tour that also took him to Sweden and Finland.

Earlier this week, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Washington was blocking any consideration of lifting oil sanctions against Iraq for reasons that had little to do with the 1991 U.N.

ceasefire resolution linking Iraqi exports to arms compliance.

Iraq is expected to export three million barrels of oil a day within 18 months of sanctions being lifted.

A divided U.N. Security Council will seriously consider lifting sanctions against Iraq after U.N. officials set up a long-term monitoring programme, the last key project in destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The U.N. Special Commission in charge of disarmament does not expect to complete its work until about March 1995.

Japanese officials said unconditional compliance was necessary before lifting the oil embargo, the official said.

Japan, which is not on the U.N. Security Council, is one of the world's largest oil importers, with nearly 90 per cent of its crude oil intake

coming from the Middle East.

It was importing about 115,000 barrels per day of Iraqi crude oil before Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs bureau chief, Takaya Suco, met Mr. Zahawi.

Mr. Suco told Mr. Zahawi that Iraq needed to comply unconditionally with all the U.N. resolutions, including Iraq's recognition of its border with Kuwait and Kuwaiti sovereignty as well as releasing Kuwaiti prisoners.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf said Wednesday Baghdad welcomed the positive attitude by several U.N. Security Council countries towards lifting the sanctions against Iraq and said the United States was increasingly iso-

lated. Quoted by the official agency INA, he said several countries had "stressed Iraq's application of U.N. resolutions" in a bid to get the sanctions lifted.

In a report received in Nicosia highlighted the position of Russia, China, France, Spain, Brazil and Nigeria "which recognise that Baghdad is conforming to the demands of Resolution 687 and call for the lifting of the oil embargo."

"The United States which persists in wanting to contradict the council's standing are increasingly isolated," he said, adding that Washington was "acting only in its own political interests."

The sanctions were automatically kept in place on Monday after the 15 members of the Security Council failed to reach a unanimous decision on whether they should be lifted.

The travel warning issued Wednesday also urges Americans residing in Algeria to "exercise maximum caution and to reevaluate their personal security practices."

"Recent attacks against foreigners, coupled with increased press attention to the United States indicate that the level of risk in Algeria has increased not only for foreigners in general, but for Americans and American facilities as well," said the statement.

In France, Algerian illegal immigrants, including two alleged supporters of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, have been arrested.

The arrests were the result of a two-pronged police operation in a neighbourhood near the town of Perpignan.

According to police, three people who entered France with false visas were arrested Thursday.

On Friday morning, three others without legal documents were arrested during a routine identity check.

The police said two of those arrested, whose identities were not given, "appear to be supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front."

He is a member of the New Aspiration Party, which is a member of the ruling coalition. Mr. Chaowalit did not immediately rule on the complaint.

## COLUMN

## China's oldest woman dies

BEIJING (AFP) — China's oldest woman, Kong Yin, has died at the ripe old age of 123, leaving vacant the title of the nation's "longevity queen," the China Daily reported Friday. Kong, who was born in 1871, died last Saturday of pulmonary emphysema in her hometown in the southern province of Guangdong, the newspaper said. Ms. Kong, who was married at the age of 15 and had four children, was crowned China's "longevity queen" in October last year, together with "longevity king" Gong Laifa, who is still going at the sprightly age of 131. Ms. Kong and Mr. Gong were crowned after a five month search sponsored by the China Elderly People Association and an advertising company. Following their "coronations," both centenarians received monthly stipends of 200 yuan (\$25), donated by two tea- and alcohol-producing Chinese firms. The newspaper did not say when a successor to Ms. Kong will be named. Mr. Gong, who lives in the impoverished southwestern province of Guizhou, was born in 1862 and worked from the 19th into the 20th centuries in the fields, subsisting on a staple diet of rice and maize.

Al Siyabi and Yemen's Ambassador Ali Askar, travelling with a Moroccan driver and a Yemeni guest, went missing last Friday while on a trip to a rural beauty spot.

Their burnt-out car was found in the Khermis Al Kechina area, 30 kilometres southeast of Algiers. The route passes through an area notorious for militant attacks.

Gulf news agencies on Friday quoted a Yemeni Foreign Ministry spokesman as telling Yemen's news agency SABA that Sanaa was concerned about diplomat and talks were continuing by telephone with Algerian authorities to try to find him.

The spokesman called on Algeria to uncover the circumstances of the envoy's disappearance and find those responsible.

He expressed Yemen's "deep anxiety" over the disappearance of Ambassador Askar, Mohammad Qassem Al Thar, whom he described as a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) politburo, and Omani Ambassador Siyabi.

The U.S. State Department has warned Americans to avoid travel to Algeria and has advised those already there to depart if they lack "effective protection."

The travel warning issued Wednesday also urges Americans residing in Algeria to "exercise maximum caution and to reevaluate their personal security practices."

"Recent attacks against foreigners, coupled with increased press attention to the United States indicate that the level of risk in Algeria has increased not only for foreigners in general, but for Americans and American facilities as well," said the statement.

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He is a member of the New Aspiration Party, which is a member of the ruling coalition. Mr. Chaowalit did not immediately rule on the complaint.

## N. Zealand to outlaw child sex tours

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's government said Friday it planned to introduce legislation which will outlaw sexual contact — at home as well as abroad — between New Zealanders and children. "Children in other countries should be accorded the same status and protection under our law as exists for New Zealand children," Justice Minister Dong Graham said. Under the new laws, New Zealanders could be brought to trial in their own country for sexual offences committed against children abroad, as well as for organising and promoting "sex tourism" involving children.

American prosecutors presented evidence against Mr. Abequa, the paper said. They charge that the suspect had bought the tickets from American airlines on July 3, "apparently shortly after his wife was killed." He ordered the tickets by telephone and billed them to a credit card.

The last time Mr. Abequa was seen before leaving the United States was in Nashville when he sold his 1982 Toyota station wagon to a friend in Nashville for \$700. The New York Times said the friend described the children to police as "fine and healthy" and they were under the impression that they were going on a vacation with their father.

## Obscure group indirectly claims attacks in L. America

SIDON (Agencies) — A group calling itself Ansarullah, or partisans of God, indirectly claimed responsibility Friday for the Buenos Aires bombing of a Jewish community group that killed 42 people.

A statement distributed in this southern Lebanese port city, the group also indirectly claimed it blew up a plane over Panama on Tuesday, killing 21 people, most of them Jewish businessmen.

"Suicide martyr" squads have been formed to confront and combat Zionism everywhere. The Argentine and Panama operations are evidence of this continuing confrontation," the typewritten Arabic-language statement said.

It is known about the group, which made its debut in a communiqué released in Sidon three months ago, proclaiming "an all out war in all spheres and with all weapons against the Israeli enemy, irrespective of all accords."

Israel has squarely blamed Monday's bombing in Buenos Aires on Iran and Hezbollah. Both have emphatically denied any involvement.

The Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for bombing the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires March 17, 1992. At least 28 people were injured and 65 missing.

It was the first claim of responsibility made in the Middle East since Monday's bombing of the headquarters of the Jewish community organisations in the Argentine capital. In addition to the 42 people killed, 206 were

killed and more than 200

that bombing was a retaliation for an Israeli helicopter ambush in which Hezbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi was killed along with his wife and five-year-old son in South Lebanon a month earlier.

Hezbollah leaders have vowed revenge for an Israeli air raid on a Hezbollah training base that killed up to 50 people in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley June 2. Some of their statements suggested the revenge could be postponed after the 1992 Buenos Aires Israeli embassy bombing.

In Buenos Aires an estimated 150,000 demonstrators took to the streets to protest the latest bombings, as more bodies were pulled from the rubble bringing the official death toll to 46.

The crowd gathered Thursday in silent mourning at the Dos Congresos plaza car-

rying banners in Spanish and Hebrew and photographs of those killed in Monday's explosion at the seven-storey headquarters of the Jewish Mutual Association.

Public transportation, banks and businesses shut down so that workers could participate in the march, which was also attended by President Carlos Menem, the Israeli ambassador and Jewish leaders.

Police estimated the crowd at about 150,000.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a broadcast message, called the attack "the most serious since the end of World War II," while Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called on Argentina to step up efforts to find the bombers.

Mr. Menem acknowledged

it would be difficult to collect

solid evidence pointing to

who was behind the attack

but said he believed "the

intelligence services would

get positive results soon."

The New York Times said that New Jersey authorities had suggested that a domestic dispute led to the woman's murder. In April, she accused her husband of child abuse.

Yahya Abequa, one of Mohammad Abequa's four brothers and three sisters, said that when his brother returned to Jordan he informed him that he was real happy and that he was seeking a job in Amman.

According to the brother, the suspect finished his army service in Amman, worked for a couple of years, then went to the United States in 1985 to work there. He said his brother had been married to Nihal, who was of Turkish origin, for more than eight years.

The murder accusation "is

the last thing I would expect

to hear about my brother. I

don't know the circumstances

but I am sure my brother is innocent," Yahya Abequa said.

The brother denied know-